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YEARBOOK

2024-25

& FANTASY GUIDE

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The silver on Lord Stanley turned a little bronze this summer, having spent so much time with Aleksander Barkov and the champion Florida Panthers.

JIM RASSOL-USA TODAY SPORTS

The Hockey News

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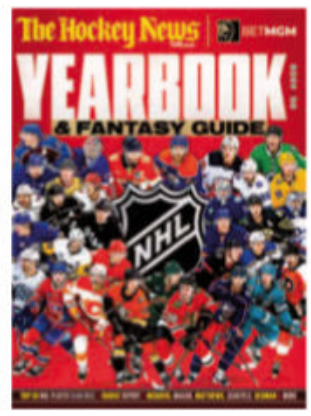

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The Hockey News was co-founded by Ken McKenzie and W.V. Cote in 1947.

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STEVEN ELLIS/THE HOCKEY NEWS

FIRST WORD
WITH RYAN KENNEDY

@THNRYANKENNEDY

4 Nations will take place in February, when Canada, the U.S., Sweden and Finland battle in two excellent hockey markets: Montreal and Boston. Consider this an *amuse-bouche* before the 2026 Winter Olympics.

We're also going to see Steven Stamkos in a Nashville jersey, an entire team in Utah jerseys and, I'm going to guess, a playoff revenge tour by Connor McDavid and friends that will keep goalies awake at night.

As for us, you and your wrists may have noticed that this particular issue is bigger than usual. That's because we have combined the Yearbook and Fantasy Pool Guide into one giant tome (in my head, I'm simply calling it 'The Big Book,' though I recognize that when it comes to branding, it would have been silly to lose the Yearbook's equity). Having everything in one book just made sense to us as it gives you, the reader, all the summer reading in one place while avoiding some of the previous repetition. Bonus: if you buy two, you can use them for shinpads once you finish reading.

NEW SEASON, NEW STORYLINES

FOR MANY FOLKS, THE 2023-24 NHL season was one of the best in recent memory. From the hotly anticipated debut of Connor Bedard to an absolutely wild final that saw the Edmonton Oilers come back from a 3-0 series deficit, only to have Florida stonewall them in Game 7 for the Panthers' first championship, there was no shortage of drama. Heck, we also had the best year ever for women's pro hockey, as the PWHL soared past initial skepticism to sell out some NHL rinks and provide its own stellar playoff tournament.

So, what do we do for an encore? Luckily, 2024-25 already has some nice pillars upon which to build. You want rookie excitement? How about San Jose's Macklin Celebrini, the youngest-ever winner of the NCAA's Hobey Baker Award? And if you need a foil, Matvei Michkov is ready to make his much-anticipated North American debut with the Philadelphia Flyers. A Canadian and a Russian storming the NHL at the same time worked for Sid and Ovi, so why not Mack and Matvei?

Speaking of Alex Ovechkin, he has a chance to break Wayne Gretzky's all-time goal-scoring record this year. He needs 42 to own the title. With his Washington Capitals adding several veterans with something to prove over the summer, there's a team-wide mission to help Ovechkin get that record.

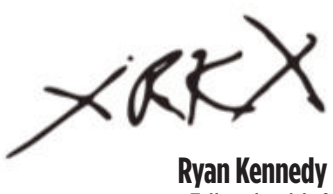
And after a long drought, some best-on-best international hockey is also coming soon. The

In all seriousness, though, we're proud of our work on the Yearbook and Fantasy Guide, which has always taken up more of our summers than most folks realize. Putting it all together gives us a chance to look forward to another hockey campaign and all the promise it holds.

Finally, we have to take a moment to remember two members of the THN family. Pastor Glen Goodhand, a hockey historian and longtime contributor, died over the summer at 89. Keeping the history of our game alive has always been one of our objectives, and the Pastor (literally, that was his day job) was an invaluable resource there. He taught me the word "bailiwick," and hockey's fascinating past was undoubtedly one of his.

We must also say goodbye to longtime Bruins correspondent Mike Loftus, who died in July at 65. Not only did he do fantastic work as a stringer, but he was widely respected for his professionalism and well-liked for his excellent sense of humor.

So, without forgetting our past, we also look toward the future – and that starts with the pages you're about to take in.



Ryan Kennedy
Editor in chief
@THNRyanKennedy

The Hockey News

100th Issue & COUNTING

THE HOCKEY NEWS HIT THE CENTURY MARK WHEN IT COMES TO NUMBER OF ISSUES UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF OWNER AND PUBLISHER W. GRAEME ROUSTAN

W. GRAEME **ROUSTAN**

ROUSTAN: PHOTO BY JON BLACKER; MCKENZIE: PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MCKENZIE

KEN **MCKENZIE**

THE HOCKEY NEWS was founded by Ken McKenzie in the most entrepreneurial of ways: he saw a need and filed it. Imagine, if you will, a mid-level manager presenting an idea to the president of a company to fix the problem of the business not getting enough attention in the marketplace by creating their own marketplace. With his vision, conviction and $200, he launched The Hockey News in 1947.

After 32 years of entrepreneurial ownership, he sold it to a U.S. corporation in 1973, which then sold it to a Canadian corporate owner in 1986, which once again sold it to another Canadian corporate owner in 2015, which then sold it to me, a self-described entrepreneur, in 2018. The ownership of The Hockey News has come full (entrepreneurial) circle.

When I was informed that The Hockey News was going to cease publication in 2018 due to declining revenues and readership, I recognized the need to keep The Hockey News alive, so I filled that need by acquiring the business and making an investment in more and better content. Readership and revenues responded immediately and continue to soar each and every year since.

When I acquired The Hockey News, I had absolutely zero experience in the publishing or media industries, but I relied on my decades of experience in building businesses and brands to turn this company around. When I started, it was like I was a kid who just got drafted by an NHL team and was playing in my first season surrounded by veteran players. I knew absolutely nothing out there as I tried to find my game, which I did.

This issue marks my 100th as publisher of The Hockey News during my six years and seven months of ownership. During this time, I have gone from a rookie to a veteran player as a publisher in the industry and now sit on the magazine advisory committee for Ontario Creates. Over the course of these 100 issues, I have made numerous changes, all of which improved the physical and digital products for our customers, and the feedback and growth have been tremendous.

Without our readers, who are by far the most informed and passionate about the game we all love, there is no way that The Hockey News would have made it to my 100th issue as its publisher and owner. The print and digital platforms enjoy their dominance in the hockey-journalism space because our readers trust The Hockey News to be the independent voice of hockey around the world, and it is because of this that we continue to be the pinnacle of hockey content. I want to thank our readers for giving me the opportunity and wonderful experience of publishing my 100th issue and counting.

W. Graeme Roustan

W. Graeme Roustan
Executive Chairman & Publisher,
Roustan Media Ltd.
roustan.com

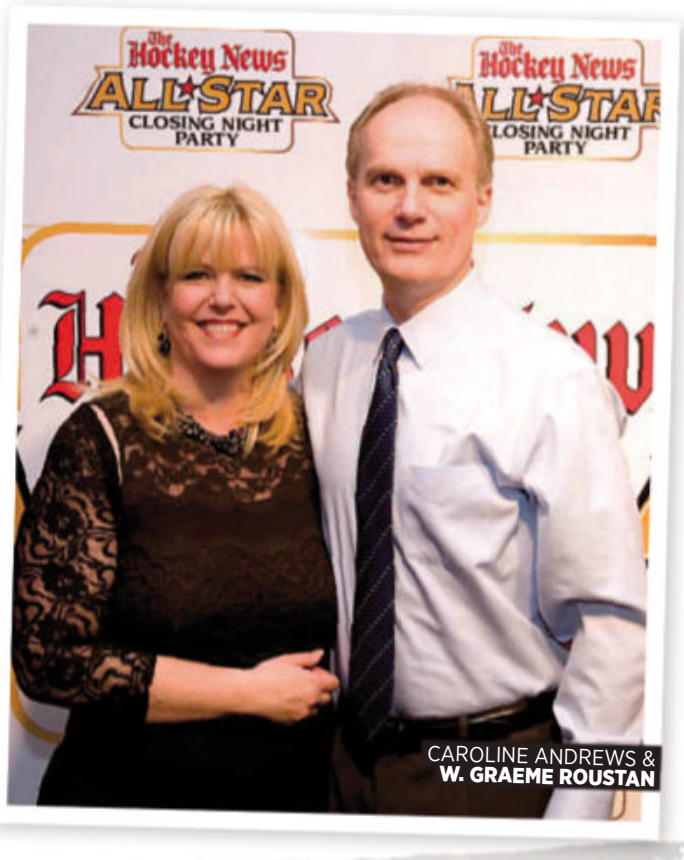
NO. 2: ALL TIME

SINCE 1947, THERE HAVE been a total of 19 publishers of The Hockey News during these past 77 years. When I acquired the magazine, I joined that list at the very bottom. As these past six-plus years, or eighty months, have passed, I have slowly climbed that list, passing other publishers, who have also passionately cared for The Hockey News, to where I now sit in the No. 2 all-time spot, second only to Ken McKenzie. That sounds crazy when I think of that.

In 2009, during the NHL's All-Star weekend, I went to The Hockey News' party in Ottawa with one goal in mind: to meet for the first time Caroline Andrews, the then publisher of The Hockey News. As the chairman of Bauer, I had been on the Top 100 People of Power list, so I knew many of the editorial staff, but I had never met the publisher.

After that first meeting in 2009, Caroline and I had become fast friends due to our hockey connection. In 2010, Caroline had arranged for The Hockey News to sponsor Team Canada in an international tournament in Belarus that I played in. After she left publishing to become a real estate agent, I hired her to sell my mother's home in 2022. Coincidentally, it was Caroline who I passed to become the No. 2 all-time publisher, relegating her to the No. 3 spot on the list. Sorry, Caroline.

I could have never dreamed as a young peewee player growing up in Montreal who devoured each and every issue of The Hockey News that someday I would become a veteran publisher of it. Growing up, Ken McKenzie was a superhero, a celebrity and the guy who seemed to know everyone in the hockey world. I remember seeing him speak at one of the many hockey banquets where he gave a speech to us hockey kids. It was electrifying. To think that I now follow him as the No. 2 on the list of all-time publishers is humbling. To take over that top spot on the list, I would have to remain as publisher until the age of 90, which I guarantee will not happen. Being as competitive as I am, this is the one time that I am thrilled to just be No. 2 all-time.



CAROLINE ANDREWS & W. GRAEME ROUSTAN

PUBLISHER LONGEVITY

1. **KEN MCKENZIE:** Oct. 1, 1947 - March 21, 1980
>389 months, 20 days or 32 years

2. **W. GRAEME ROUSTAN:** Jan. 27. 2018 - Sept. 1, 2024
>80 months, 10 days or 6.7 Years (active)

3. **CAROLINE ANDREWS:** June 5, 2007 - Jan. 27, 2014
>79 months, 21 days or 6.5 years

4. **MICHAEL LAWTON:** Aug. 8, 1986 - Aug. 1, 1991
>59 months, 24 days or 4.9 years

5. **GERALD MCGROARTY:** Dec. 13, 2002 - May 22, 2007
>53 months, 9 days or 4.4 years

6. **ED PEARCE:** Nov. 27, 1992 - March 21, 1997
>51 months, 24 days or 4.25 years

7. **LANCE NEALE:** May 9, 1997 - Nov. 10, 2000
>42 months, 1 day or 3.5 years

8. **DONALD R. WALL:** March 28, 1980 - May 20, 1983
>37 months, 23 days or 3 years

9. **DEAN HEINE:** July 1, 1983 - June 14, 1985
>23 months, 14 days or 1.9 years

10. **LUCIE DUMAS:** Nov. 23, 2015 - March 6, 2017
>15 months, 13 days or 1.25 years

11. **JACQUELINE LOCH:** June 23, 2014 - Sept. 24, 2015
>15 months, 1 day or 1.25 years

12. **WAYNE KARL:** Nov. 16, 2001 - Dec. 6, 2002
>12 months, 20 days or 1 year

13. **STEVE DRYDEN:** Nov. 17, 2000 - Nov. 9, 2001
>11 months, 22 days or 0.9 years

14. **JAMES A. DAVIDSON:** June 28, 1985 - May 2, 1986
>10 month, 4 days or 0.8 years

15. **DAVID CLARK:** Oct. 19, 1991 - Aug. 1, 1992
>9 months, 13 days or 0.75 years

16. **LYNE ROBITAILLE:** May 29. 2017 - Feb. 12. 2018
>8 months, 14 days or 0.66 years

17. **CARLOS LAMADRID:** Jan. 1, 2014 - June 1, 2014
>5 months, or 0.4 years

18. **GINETTE ROY:** Sept. 4, 1992 - Nov. 20, 1992
>2 months, 16 days or 0.16 years

19. **SANDRA MARTIN:** Nov. 9, 2015, Apr. 3 2017 - May 8, 2017 **>1 month, five days or 0.08 years**

ROUSTAN1: PHOTO BY JON BLACKER; ROUSTAN2: PHOTO COURTESY OF W. GRAEME ROUSTAN

DREAM JOB

MY EXPERIENCE AS PUBLISHER OF THE HOCKEY NEWS IS ONE I'LL NEVER FORGET

BY CAROLINE ANDREWS

I REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN Transcontinental Media announced that it had purchased the magazine company Telemedia. My career dream was to work in the magazine industry.

I, along with my partners, sold my newspaper company to Transcontinental Media in 1997. I was then hired and promoted as publisher to run several newspapers in Ottawa. Transcontinental also acquired the Ottawa Business Journal. The OBJ had a stellar reputation in the city, so I was thrilled when it was added to my portfolio.

Could this be my path to the magazine industry? Not yet.

Transcontinental then bought the newspaper company Optipress. I was transferred to Nova Scotia to develop a turnaround strategy for 11 newspapers.

If I could prove myself, could this be my ticket to the magazine industry? I imagined publishing iconic brands: *Style at Home, Canadian Living, Elle Canada*.

After two years, I got *the* call. The VP of HR was flying into Halifax to meet with me to discuss a promotion to the magazine division. I remember her sharing how important a particular publication was to the founder of Transcontinental, as it was the first publication the company acquired, and he was a huge fan. She explained that the brand needed a significant revitalization plan, and I was chosen to be the new publisher. I was to move to Toronto the following month and become the publisher of The Hockey News brand.

The Hockey News! What?

Of course, I knew The Hockey News was part of the magazine division, but never in a million years did I ever think that was the brand I would be taking over.

The editors and writers are renowned in the hockey world. THN is the 'Bible of Hockey.' They've only had a few female employees in their then 60-year history. I'm coming in as the boss. Would I be accepted? I have never been so intimidated in my life.

Off to Toronto I went in the summer of 2007. My first meeting with the team was interesting. Everyone was polite. Everyone asked many questions about my hockey knowledge. Everyone was skeptical. I was honest and explained to the team that I was a huge fan but not a hockey expert. What I am is an expert in business, brands, publishing and understanding readers, operations and advertisers. You are all the hockey experts. "Let's elevate this brand to new heights together."

The following morning, one of those yellow and black "Hockey for Dummies" books was left anonymously on my desk. True story. I had my work cut out for me.

The fall of 2007 was going to be the 60th anniversary of The Hockey News. My plan was to relaunch The Hockey News in a big way to celebrate. I rolled up my sleeves, and the work began. I met with executives at the NHL in New York City to brainstorm. They were gracious with their time. I had to learn more about the business of hockey. I pored over past editions of THN. We did reader surveys and met with advertisers and suppliers to explain new concepts. We held many team meetings to discuss and tweak ideas.

By late summer, I was ready to present to the team. I wanted to transform The Hockey News from a newspaper to a glossy magazine. This move would attract more advertisers, readers and stand out on newsstands. I wanted more feature writing, a new design, contests, events, books and to expand THN.com and develop a mobile app. Oh, and we have only a few months to launch, as it must align with our 60th anniversary. My plan was to unveil the new magazine at an anniversary party in Toronto. The team was silent for a few minutes, and then the boardroom erupted with applause. Everyone was onboard and excited. We worked tirelessly to be ready for launch. In November, I was on stage at our launch party with Don Cherry, unveiling the giant cover of our first glossy magazine.

The new concepts were a hit. We attracted more advertisers and readers. Our books were best-sellers. THN mobile launched. THN.com expanded. During my many years with The Hockey News, I published 234 issues, a plethora of digital content and many books. I miss our healthy debates over covers, content and strategy. It was a privilege to collaborate with this extraordinary, talented team.

W. GRAEME ROUSTAN, **CAROLINE ANDREWS &** KERRY GOULET

About Caroline Andrews: *The success of the THN relaunch earned Caroline a well-deserved promotion, and soon after, she became the VP & group publisher of all Transcontinental's English magazines. The Hockey News will always be her favorite brand. She moved back to Ottawa in 2019 and was hired by Engel & Volkers real-estate brokerage as director of operations. She now sells real estate full-time for Engel & Volkers and loves her new career path.*

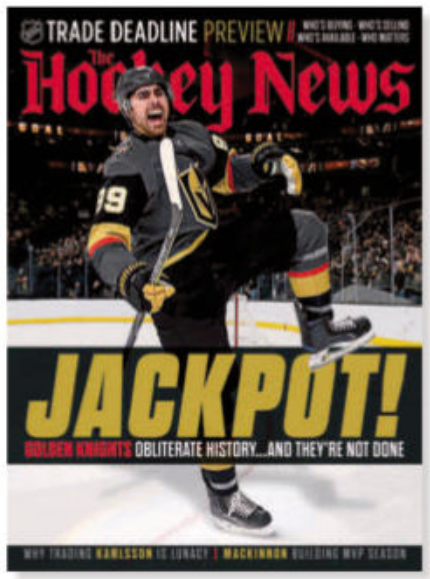
ANDREWS: PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE ANDREWS; ROUSTAN+ANDREWS: PHOTOS COURTESY OF W. GRAEME ROUSTAN

TOP 5

COVERS

1. 7403 - Walter Gretzky

On March 4, 2021, I was driving from Toronto on my way to see my mom in Carleton Place, Ont., when, on the radio, they broke into a song and announced that Walter Gretzky had passed away. I pulled off the highway and made a call to the then editor in chief to find out what the editorial plan was for this news. After some back-and-forth discussion, I ordered that the issue serve as a celebration of the life of Canada's hockey dad. We put Wayne Gretzky's father on the cover and produced a 16-page package honoring his life.

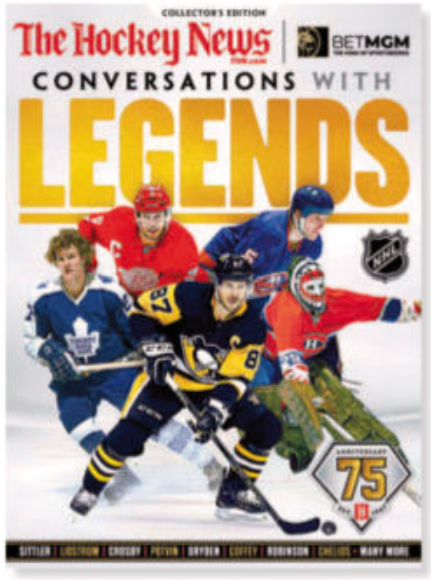


3. 7112 - My First Issue

This was the first issue that was published after I had acquired The Hockey News, and it featured a column by me coming in at a whopping 232 words and titled simply "A Letter From The Publisher." As a typical Canadian, I was never one for putting private family content out into the public domain before, but I decided to take the leap with a picture of me as a young boy and write about me and my brother when we were kids. What was supposed to be a one-time introductory piece as the new publisher became a regular column titled the "Publisher's Note," and now I struggle to keep it fewer than 1,000 words.

4. 7612 - 100 Classic Covers

Perhaps this is a sneaky way that I can add more covers to my top 5 by selecting the cover that contains 100 covers. Guilty as charged, but hear me out. I have loved The Hockey News since the early 1960s, and when I look back through the archive and see the thousands of covers that date back to 1947, I am overwhelmed with equal parts joy and fear that comes with being the steward of The Hockey News. The pressure to leave it to the next steward in better condition than how I received this honor is a responsibility I take to heart. Every time I see the 100 Classic Covers issue, it reminds me of the thousands of people who have worked on the thousands of issues since 1947. Try sleeping at night with that on your back.



5. 7603 - Legends

I grew up in Montreal loving hockey at all levels, but I especially loved the NHL, which was then based in Montreal. The Richard brothers, Gump Worsley, John Ferguson and Doug Harvey were all players who my dad knew and whom I met. Today, they and thousands of others are legends in the game of hockey. When my editorial team proposed a complete issue dedicated to interviews with some of the legends, I was all in, and it became a huge hit with our readers.

2. 2019 - Money & Power

An issue dedicated to the business of hockey is the task I put to my editorial team on Day 1 as new publisher. The cornerstone of this new dedicated business issue was to be the annual 100 People of Power and Influence list that The Hockey News launched in 2000. From there, I was going to use my business connections to bring to readers the off-ice information about the game they love. I asked Gary Bettman, Don Fehr and Rene Fasel to do the cover shot, and since then, the Money and Power issue has grown in popularity and size from 124 to 196 pages, and each edition features a spectacular gatefold cover.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Archive

Digitizing almost 3,000 issues dating back to 1947 is by far the biggest accomplishment during my time as publisher of these 100 issues. Not only was it a difficult process to navigate, but it was an important process for the history of the game of hockey. No other media company or even the NHL itself has the documented history of hockey like The Hockey News has in its possession. That is why anyone wanting to write an authentic book on any part of hockey history since 1947 smartly accesses our database for information. Our subscribers have access to the entire archive for free as part of their subscription.

CHALLENGES

1. Pandemic

March 12, 2020, was the day that Gary Bettman "paused" the NHL from playing any further games due to the coronavirus. From that date forward for two years, life was different for everyone around the world, and that included the hockey world. We all had to find ways to live, work and survive. The Hockey News business suffered financially since no hockey was being played. As its publisher and owner, the challenge was to make the tough decisions that had to be made to ensure its future, which was in jeopardy every single day. No one knows how close The Hockey News came to ceasing publication of print forever other than me, my accountant and my lawyer, both of whom advised me to shut it down for good. It was the darkest and most difficult time I had ever experienced in my entire business career.

2. Russian Invasion of Ukraine

On Feb. 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and began its killing spree that continues today. The IIHF and the NHL cut ties with Russia as governments from the free world instituted sanctions and businesses pulled out of Russia. As an individual with Ukrainian family ties, I too felt invaded. As chairman of Bauer, I travelled extensively in Russia. Over the years, I made friends with many Russian players and even played in the Russian Heroes Hockey Game in Red Square, where I was the only non-Russian individual in the game. That game preceded the first All-Star Game of the KHL, a league created by the Russian government to compete against the NHL. Those teams are each owned by Russian oligarchs hand-picked by Vladimir Putin, and by promoting the KHL, one is indirectly promoting the regime. As such, we now only cover the KHL in our Champions edition.

3. Growth Pains

Coming out of the pandemic in 2022, The Hockey News was as lean as it could be without compromising the quality of its print content, which has been at the core of the brand since 1947. We had made surgical cuts to our staff, and I challenged my remaining team to go above and beyond what they had ever done before to get us through the pandemic. They all stepped up. Post-pandemic, the challenge was to staff up. One by one, positions were filled, and when I saw the opportunity to launch 32 NHL-team websites and a dozen more dedicated themed sites in 2023, I went out and recruited the key people to fill the leadership and editorial positions. The Hockey News has now launched almost 50 new websites: one dedicated to each NHL team, women's hockey as well as a dozen more themed websites.

2. Print to Digital Transformation

In 2018, The Hockey News had a website where five or so stories a day would be posted. Today, The Hockey News has almost 50 websites under the main one, with more than 10 million pageviews per month. It's the norm that more than 100 stories are published for free every day. Transitioning The Hockey News brand from a print-dominated platform to the digital platform has occurred during these 100 issues, and now, more than 50 percent of our revenue comes from digital sources.

3. Physical Print Size and Quality

Going from 54 to a 116-page minimum size of issue was reached during these 100 issues under my stewardship. In addition, we have moved away from staples to hold most of the magazine issues together to perfect bound every single issue now, which improves the thud factor when dropping an issue on your desk or table. We have upgraded the quality of the paper inside the magazine as well as using thicker paper for the cover, which is now 100-pound paper with a UV coating. The Money and Power issue has a heavier gatefold cover and even heavier-quality paper that executives always take note of. Not only do I want readers to experience the increased content inside each issue, but I want them to get a workout when holding the issues in their hands.

4. Expanded Content

After a decade of cuts in staff, pages and content, The Hockey News content had declined right in front of readers' eyes. Over the past 100 issues, we have reversed the decline in the number of pages of content by widening the coverage of topics, specifically more coverage of women's hockey and the business of hockey. We went back to The Hockey News' roots of covering more leagues and international hockey but in more detail. For more than 60 years, I have known that The Hockey News can tell hockey stories better than any other publication, so let's widen the lens beyond the NHL and cover everything hockey.

5. Strategic Partnerships and Distribution

Being on a hockey team is very much like being on a business team in that you get to work with similar-minded people who have the same goal of winning. I have entered into strategic partnerships with other top-of-the-food-chain brands, including Yahoo, Apple, BetMGM, MSN, Upper Deck and many others who have recognized the authenticity and value of associating their brands with that of The Hockey News brand. Over these past 100 issues, we have consistently added strategic partners to grow with, which has taken our content to new highs around the world.

All in, since the end of the pandemic, we have added more than 100 professionals to The Hockey News team.

4. Customer Service

The Hockey News has outsourced all of its customer-service functions since before my stewardship, and it has been a challenge from Day 1 for me to find a path forward to make our customer service world-class. It has been the Achilles heel of The Hockey News and the one area where everyone tells me there is nothing I can do to fix it. As soon as I say that I want to terminate outsourcing it and bring it in-house, I'm told it would be an even bigger disaster. Being that I am often going against the grain, I made the decision to bring all customer service operations in-house by the fall of 2024. It reminds me of 2018, when I acquired a print magazine, and everyone was telling me I couldn't make it work. Well, I did make it work, and I will make customer service for our subscribers work much better than it has been during these first 100 issues.

5. Cost Containment

Print, postage and people costs are the three P's in the downfall of all magazines. As the owner of The Hockey News, I would make a great deal of money if I just eliminated all print magazines and just went all digital all the time. I am constantly asked by other magazine publishers and even my own accountant why I keep the print version of The Hockey News alive when it would financially benefit me not to do so. Paper and print costs have doubled since the pandemic, and as you might know, prices go up fast but never seem to come back down. Canada Post and the USPS are used to send our subscribers their copies, but once or twice a year, we get postal-rate increases. As for people, costs continue to go up. Eventually, if print, postage and people costs continue to increase at rates above what people are willing to pay for a subscription, the challenge will be to maintain a print magazine. But I will do everything in my power to ensure we do.

TOP 5
PUBLISHER'S NOTES

1. 7513 - Ivy's Son

I wrote this Publisher's Note in the difficult hours after my mom took her last breath as I sat by her side in the Carleton Place hospital. Throughout my life, and too often to count, I had always been referred to as 'Ivy's son,' just as I had during these final days by the nursing staff. After wearing many titles over the years, the one that best defines and suits me as a person is that of Ivy's son. I shared this with all of my readers because had it not been for Ivy's encouragement, advice and support, I would have never taken on the risk of buying a print magazine scheduled to be shut down in the digital media age. Ivy is the main reason that you and millions of people around the world are able to read The Hockey News today.

2. 7403 - Wally, Wally, Wayne & Wayne by Walter

The Walter Gretzky tribute issue is my favorite cover and issue of my first 100 issues by far. This was the first time I stepped in and asserted my ownership to set the editorial direction of any issue. The issue was about the most difficult issue that we all unfortunately have to deal with at some point in our lives: the death of a parent. If you are in the hockey world, then you have some connection to the Gretzky family, even if you might not be aware of it. In Canada, there were many families like the Gretzkys, and even if I had never met Walter and Wayne, in my Publisher's Note, I pointed out some of the similarities our families had just to add a lighter note to the seriousness of the subject matter.

3. 7215 - Watching The Greatest Team of All-Time

For four days, starting on April 26, 2019, I sat at my mother's bedside in the Ottawa General Hospital, watching the healthcare team take care of my mother after she had broken her hip. This team of professionals worked seamlessly together in a choreographed way that was unlike anything I had ever seen before. The way they worked together with the goal of providing my mom with the greatest care possible was eye-opening. I had played on several great teams in many sports and in business, but I realized after spending those four days there I had witnessed greatness, and I am forever in their debt.

4. 7601 - A New Editor in Chief

The 75th anything is a milestone in anyone's life or in any business. Reaching this milestone is alone an accomplishment, but to be alive and relevant at the same time means there is a formula for success at play. I believe that in order to extend life, be it personal or business, one must continue to grow in an open and unbiased way. In 2022, I took the occasion of the 75th anniversary of The Hockey News' first issue back in 1947 to name its next editor in chief, Ryan Kennedy. I wrote in this edition of my Publisher's Note that since I had acquired the publication, I had made several changes on both the business and editorial side to grow the title, both popular and unpopular. My naming a new editor in chief who understood my vision was imperative and indicative of all of the changes as I plan toward the 100th anniversary in 2047.

5. 7306 - We Are One Big Family

Phil Hoffman was a typical subscriber of The Hockey News – "passionate" is the positive spin I like to use. He was irate that an issue of his subscription had not reached him in 2018, and he wanted to speak with the owner. I think I actually shocked him when I reached out to him and personally resolved his issue. We immediately hit it off as we found something in common we love: The Hockey News. On March 31, 2020, he passed away as one of the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. I reached out to his wife, Eileen, and we had a few calls leading up to my Publisher's Note that we published on Phil and his life and love of hockey. The Hockey News lost a subscriber, but I had lost a new friend.

ISSUE 101 & BEYOND

AS OF THIS ISSUE, I am now the second-longest-serving publisher of The Hockey News. I take great pride in saying that. It is an honor to be at the helm of this organization that is steeped in history while having the brightest of futures.

I am hard at work growing the business, extending The Hockey News brand across more platforms and with other strategic partners. I am focused on our 100th anniversary, which will take place in 2047, and as the cornerstone of that build, I have put in place a young enough team to get us to that remarkable mountaintop.

My No. 1 responsibility is to prepare the brand for the next publisher, its 20th, by handing it off in a better condition than I received it in. So far, the readers have spoken, and they approve of my vision wholeheartedly by subscribing and consuming our content on all platforms.

During these 100 issues, I have transformed from a rookie to become a veteran publisher. I have had some accomplishments as well as challenges along the way, but it has been a great journey. I owe a great deal of thanks to all of my teammates at The Hockey News, you, the readers, for supporting my vision and to my mom, Ivy, for everything that I have and everything that I am. H

MEXICO
PJHL
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10 THINGS TO WATCH

After wandering in the desert for years, the Utah Hockey Club has a new home and new hope.

A FLORIDA MAN NAMED STANLEY. WILL THAT BE TRENDING AGAIN IN 2025? THAT'S JUST ONE OF MANY HEADLINES TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS SEASON

BY KEN CAMPBELL

BY THE TIME THE 2024-25 season starts, perhaps the Florida Panthers will have recovered from the hangover. Not the Stanley Cup hangover – the actual one that comes with the pounding head and the nausea and the vowing to never, ever drink again. Maybe by that time, the good people of South Florida will stop looking at them funny as they stand shirtless on the side of the road holding up a big, shiny trophy.

The Panthers celebrated their first championship in franchise history with gusto, to be sure. Their coach, Paul Maurice, was both magnificently articulate and incredibly profane. It was glorious. Whether the Panthers can keep Stanley a Florida Man for the fourth time in six years will come down to whether or not their core, which they did an admirable job of keeping together, will continue to have a Tomas Nosek for the net and play hard to the last Mackenzie Entwistle.

The Panthers and their pursuit of another Stanley Cup, playing in the murderer's row known as the Atlantic Division – with a Cup finalist in each of the past six seasons – is just one of the storylines to follow this year. Here are 10 others:

1. ARE WE THERE YETI?

They left the desert and became a team with no name, but the Utah Hockey Club has an awful lot going for it. All it took was a move about 700 miles due north and a credible owner in tech billionaire Ryan Smith. Are the former Arizona Coyotes primed to become the Colorado Avalanche 2.0? OK, nobody is expecting a Stanley Cup in Year 1 after the move, something the Avs did the year after they relocated to Denver from Quebec City in 1996. But Utah is using its newfound wealth to supplement a lineup that looks ready to turn the corner to become a contender.

DRAFT: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS; SMITH: ROB GRAY-USA TODAY SPORTS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

10 THINGS TO WATCH

ALEX OVECHKIN

2. THE GR8 CHASE

When he came out of the gate with just eight goals in 43 games last season, it looked like Alex Ovechkin might not catch Wayne Gretzky's all-time record of 894 goals after all. But with 23 in his final 36 games, Ovechkin put himself in a position to break the mark soon. It would take a 42-goal season in 2024-25, something the 39-year-old did just two years ago. And with the Capitals trying to rebuild on the fly, Ovechkin will have more help in his quest than last season.

4. THE MILLION-DOLLAR 'Q'UESTION

Having been reinstated on July 1, the opening day of free agency, Joel Quenneville immediately goes to the top of the list of NHL coaches-in-waiting, right? If it were based solely on quality and resume, Quenneville would indeed be fielding calls as soon as a couple of teams start badly. But is there a franchise that will be prepared to face the inevitable backlash and public-relations problem that will come with hiring Quenneville, who was part of the inner circle when the Chicago Blackhawks abdicated their duty to report a sexual assault in 2010? Chances are, there will be. Because hockey. After all, Stan Bowman was named GM of the Oilers in July.

JOEL QUENNEVILLE

JAMES HAGENS

5. HAGENS DOES

It's never too early to start rating prospects, so James Hagens, formerly of the USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, is the way-too-early front-runner to go No. 1 overall at the 2025 NHL draft. The Boston College freshman will get some competition from the likes of Anton Frondell of Djurgarden (Swe.), Porter Martone of OHL Brampton and Michael Misa of OHL Saginaw. And, of course, we'll also be keeping an eye on 16-year-old phenom Gavin McKenna, who scored 97 points for WHL Medicine Hat last season and is the way-*way*-too-early front-runner to go No. 1 overall in 2026.

MATVEI MICHKOV

3. THE CASHVILLE PREDATORS

In his first stab at free agency in 2023, rookie Nashville GM Barry Trotz made a few interesting tweaks. But in Year 2, Trotz went full-on cowboy, handing out more than $170 million in contracts to newcomers Steven Stamkos, Jonathan Marchessault and Brady Skjei, while extending goalie Juuse Saros for eight years beyond this season, all on the first day of free agency in 2024. With Cup winners Stamkos, Marchessault and Ryan O'Reilly leading the way, the Preds put what looked like a rebuild on steroids and pushed it right into a contention window.

BARRY TROTZ

6. ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MATVEI

First, the supremely talented Matvei Michkov fell into the Philadelphia Flyers' laps at the 2023 draft when they got him with the seventh-overall pick. Though the Flyers expected Michkov to not be available until 2026-27, St. Petersburg released him from his KHL commitment two years early. Sounds strange, but the Flyers will take it. And just like last season, when Connor Bedard was the Calder Trophy odds-on favorite to start the year, the player drafted six spots after him will enter 2024-25 with the same expectation.

OVECHKIN: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS; TROTZ: CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL-USA TODAY SPORTS; QUENNEVILLE: CAYLOR ARNOLD-USA TODAY SPORTS; HAGENS: RENA LAVERTY/USA HOCKEY; MICHKOV: DMITRY BONDARENKO/KHL PHOTO

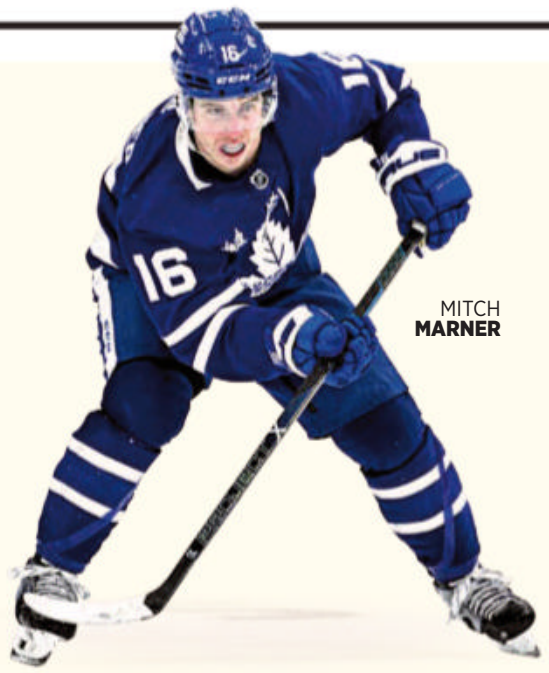
10 THINGS
TO WATCH

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

This season will see a best-on-best men's tourney for the first time since the 2016 World Cup of Hockey.

7. NHL/NHLPA INVITATIONAL

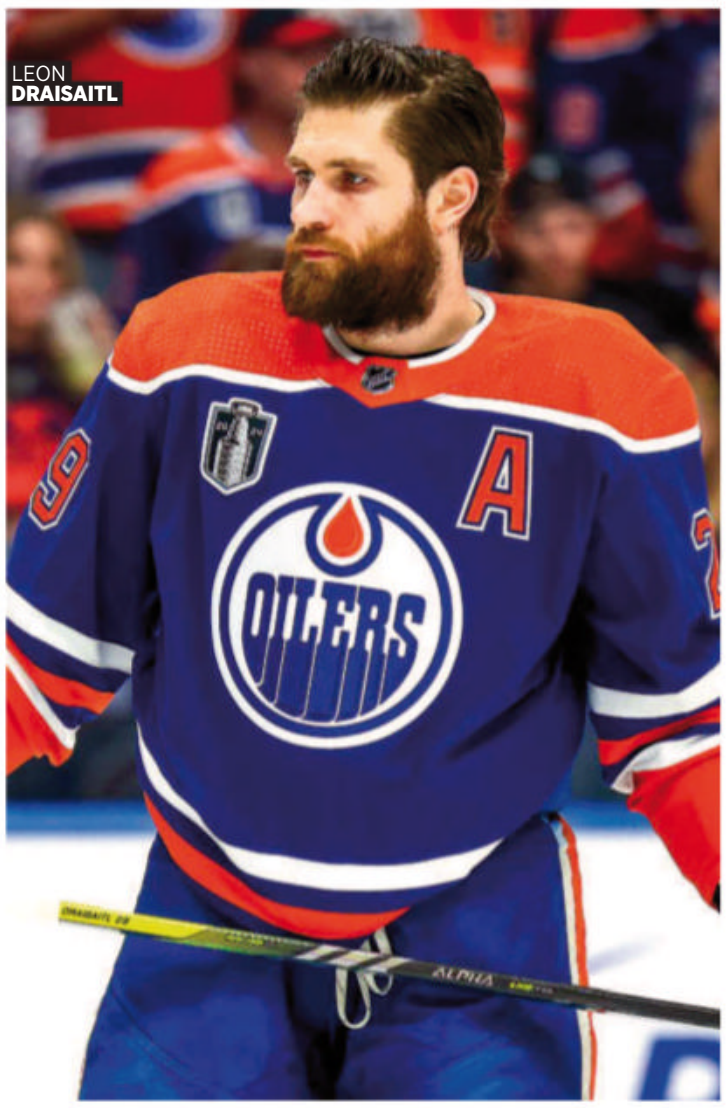
Hey, we're all for anything that replaces the NHL All-Star Game, so go 4 Nations Face-Off! (And as a fringe benefit, Nikita Kucherov won't be there acting like somebody just peed in his Corn Flakes.) You're probably not surprised to hear that it will be a four-team tournament involving four nations – Canada, the United States, Sweden and Finland – held in Boston and Montreal from Feb. 12-20, 2025. It won't have anywhere near the intrigue of other international best-on-best events, but it will provide an interesting prequel to the 2026 Olympics. The NHL's really, really going for reals this time, right?



MITCH **MARNER**

8. BORN TO BE FREE

It seems like we say this almost every year, but have you checked out the free-agent class for the summer of 2025? Some of those players will be signed during the season or before July 1, but there are some situations – such as Leon Draisaitl's in Edmonton and Mitch Marner's in Toronto – that will be fascinating to watch unfold. Add in the likes of Brock Boeser in Vancouver, Igor Shesterkin with the Rangers and Aaron Ekblad in Florida and you've got yourself a boffo UFA class right there.



LEON **DRAISAITL**

9. RULES RULE, MAN

Because there are clearly not enough times when the officials have to huddle over an iPad, the league will now allow a coach's challenge on puck-over-the-glass calls. It will only be to determine whether the puck deflected off a player, stick, the glass or the boards and not on how the puck left the defensive zone…zzzz…wait, what? And be warned, NHLers, no more sitting on the boards with one leg hanging over during play. We know you're as eager as an under-10 puck hog to get out there and have fun with your friends, but now you'll get a warning, followed by a bench penalty. For not staying on the bench.

10. SPHERE, THERE OR ANYWHERE?

When the 2024 draft wrapped up, NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly hinted that maybe, just maybe, the league might not go ahead with a decentralized draft as was planned after all. That would have everything to do with the spectacle created at The Sphere in Vegas, which received rave reviews, both from those in attendance and those who watched on television. But as long as the NHL is going to jam so many important dates together, having a decentralized draft makes more sense from a practical perspective.

WORLD CUP+MARNER: DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS; DRAISAITL: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

CONNOR
BEDARD
SHERWOOD
X

ROOKIE REPORT

MATVEI MICHKOV

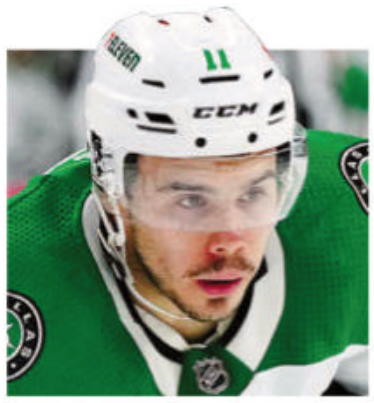
THE NEXT WAVE OF NHL FRESHMEN FEATURES DAZZLING TALENT UP FRONT AND A COUPLE OF GREAT GOALIES, TOO

BY RYAN KENNEDY

THE NHL'S 2024-25 rookie class will be a mature one. We expect some fun things from Macklin Celebrini, but the No. 1 pick is the only lock from the 2024 draft class to go straight to The Show. A defenseman such as Artyom Levshunov or Sam Dickinson could break the mold, but it's more likely we see them in 2025-26.

Most of the 10 players on these pages have already seen some NHL action but not enough to squash their Calder Trophy eligibility. To that end, we've omitted impressive youngsters such as Simon Edvinsson (Detroit), Brandt Clarke (Los Angeles) and David Jiricek (Columbus), as they'll officially enter 2024-25 as NHL sophomores, based on the Calder's games-played rule.

There will be some great opportunities for the promising freshmen players on this list, many of whom play for rebuilding organizations that need guys who can come in and seize a role. In some cases, that might even be a plum spot in net.



LOGAN STANKOVEN C, DAL

THE RELENTLESS MOTOR AND high-end skill put Stankoven on the fast track in Dallas, where the diminutive dynamo made a quick impression last season. Stankoven earned a roster spot in the playoffs and tied for sixth in Stars' post-season scoring with eight points in 19 games. He also won 53.9 percent of his faceoffs. With 24 games of service in the regular season, Stankoven barely qualifies for the Calder – but he's in the race. On a team with Stanley Cup talent, Stankoven has the chance to make even more of an impact this season.

MATVEI MICHKOV RW, PHI

ONE OF THE MOST dynamic and offensively lethal prospects to come around in years, Michkov had been in a bit of Russian purgatory since the Flyers drafted him. Instead of playing for powerhouse SKA-St. Petersburg, the team loaned him to bottom-feeder Sochi. Nonetheless, Michkov arrives in North America with a ton of hype – and it's very much warranted. Let's not forget, he went toe-to-toe with Connor Bedard at the 2021 world under-18s, putting up 16 points to Bedard's 14. And though Canada won gold over Russia, Michkov was named tournament MVP and got revenge with a title at the Hlinka Gretzky tourney that summer.

WILL SMITH C, SJ

AFTER A SMASHING FRESHMAN season at Boston College, the No. 4 pick in 2023 decided to sign his entry-level contract with the Sharks, and why not? Smith put up an incredible 71 points in 41 games for the NCAA's Eagles, helping them get to the national championship game before falling to Denver. He also won gold with Team USA at the world juniors, playing on the same line he did at BC, with Ryan Leonard (Washington) and Gabe Perreault (New York Rangers) on his wings. Smith is an excellent playmaker with a high hockey IQ, and on a San Jose team in need of talent, the teenager fits the bill.

MICHKOV: DMITRY BONDARENKO/KHL PHOTO; STANKOVEN: JAMES GUILLORY-USA TODAY SPORTS; SMITH: BRACE HEMMELGARN-USA TODAY SPORTS

MACKLIN CELEBRINI C, SJ

THE YOUNGEST HOBEY BAKER Award winner ever, Celebrini was 17 for his entire freshman season with Boston University, helping the Terriers to the Frozen Four semifinal. His statline of 64 points in 38 games was impressive enough, but Celebrini has the dogged compete level and commitment away from the puck to be a trusted entity in the NHL immediately. There's a reason he went first overall in the 2024 draft. He has already proven that age means nothing to him, and with Will Smith also in the fold in San Jose, the Sharks have an incredible 1-2 punch developing down the middle.

JESPER WALLSTEDT G, MIN

HIS NHL DEBUT DIDN'T go so well – he let in seven goals on 34 shots – but Wallstedt ended the year on a positive note, shutting out Chicago and then earning his second NHL win over San Jose. He's been on the radar for several years, and like most goalies, he had to develop at the proper pace. But the time to see more of Wallstedt is now, with 39-year-old Marc-Andre Fleury entering his final NHL season. Wallstedt has Filip Gustavsson ahead of him, too, but the younger goalie has the size and athleticism to be the No. 1 in Minnesota soon.

IVAN MIROSHNICHENKO LW, WSH

HIS BATTLE WITH HODGKIN'S lymphoma was harrowing, but Miroshnichenko got through the ordeal. Now, he's on the upward swing in Washington. Physical and offensively gifted, the Russian left winger has a great role model in town in captain Alex Ovechkin, plus the chance to impact an aging team that needs an injection of youth to turn things around. Miroshnichenko got his feet wet with 21 NHL games last season, putting up a modest six points. But he found more success and gained great pro experience with AHL Hershey as part of the team's run to the Calder Cup championship.

YAROSLAV ASKAROV G, NSH

DURING HIS TIME WITH AHL Milwaukee, Askarov delighted his teammates with his bold moves in net – and sometimes nowhere near the net. They called it 'Rock Star Mode' when Askarov would make an unorthodox move, and while his coaches sometimes grimaced, they never tried to change the 6-foot-4, 187-pound stopper. Why bother? Askarov's size and quickness make him an ideal NHL goalie, and he has a great mentor in Nashville in starter Juuse Saros. In two appearances with the Predators last year, Askarov rocked a .943 save percentage.

JIRI KULICH C, BUF

THE SABRES HAVE SEVERAL impressive young players who will be vying for roster spots and some, such as Zach Benson and Jack Quinn, who are there already. Kulich will have to fend off Buffalo's other top prospects if he wants a full-time job, but that's precisely the kind of internal competition the Sabres need in order to climb into a playoff spot. Kulich was a monster for Czechia's bronze-medal team at the world juniors, especially in a shocking playoff win over Finland. The sharpshooter made the WJC all-star team and also played in the AHL all-star festivities thanks to his exemplary work in Rochester.

CUTTER GAUTHIER C, ANA

HIS TRADE FROM PHILADELPHIA to Anaheim was controversial – and no doubt Flyers fans will let him know how they feel the first time he comes to town – but there's no denying the skills Gauthier brings to the table. He was a Hobey Baker finalist, helped Boston College make it to the NCAA final and won a gold medal at the WJC with Team USA. Gauthier is a big, mobile center who can kill penalties and also owns a wicked shot. He played a bit at left wing for the U.S. NTDP prior to college, so the Ducks could shift him over if needed.

DENTON MATEYCHUK D, CLB

WHILE HIS MOOSE JAW Warriors didn't win the Memorial Cup, Mateychuk ended last season on a high note thanks to his strong showing in the playoffs, which included a WHL championship. The mobile blueliner was named WHL defenseman of the year and playoff MVP after posting 30 points in 20 games (including a league-best 19 assists). Mateychuk will have to earn his spot on the Columbus blueline, and big David Jiricek will be another top youngster looking for minutes. But that's a great problem for the Blue Jackets to have, since a talent-rich D-corps will go a long way in helping the team get back in the hunt.

CELEBRINI: BRACE HEMMELGARN-USA TODAY SPORTS; WALLSTEDT: TIM GARLAND/IOWA WILD; MIROSHNICHENKO: TRAVIS BOYD/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS; ASKAROV: PHOTO BY MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS; KULICH: MICHELINE VELUVOLU/ROCHESTER AMERICANS; MATEYCHUK: NICK PETTIGREW/MOOSE JAW WARRIORS

NHL EDGE

THE LEAGUE'S INTRODUCTION OF A HOST OF NEW MEASUREMENTS PROVIDED SOME FUN – AND OFTEN SURPRISING – INSIGHT INTO THE GAME'S BEST

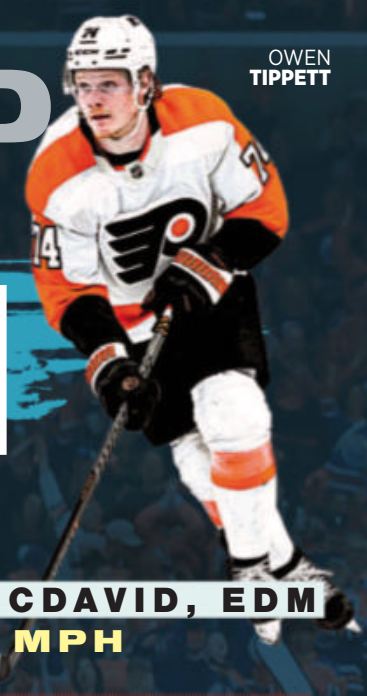
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NHL® EDGE™

MAX SPEED

1. OWEN TIPPETT, PHI

24.21 MPH



OWEN TIPPETT

T2. LUKE HUGHES, NJ
24.19 MPH

T2. CONNOR MCDAVID, EDM
24.19 MPH

FASTEST SHOT

1. COLIN MILLER, WPG

102.59 MPH

2. DARREN RADDYSH, TB
102.40 MPH

3. ARBER XHEKAJ, MTL
102.23 MPH

TOTAL DISTANCE

1. NATHAN MACKINNON, COL

300.15 MI

2. RASMUS DAHLIN, BUF
299.29 MI

3. MIKE MATHESON, MTL
295.31 MI

OILERS: PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS; TIPPETT: DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

HIGH-DANGER SHOTS

1. ZACH HYMAN, EDM

180

ZACH **HYMAN**

2. JOHN TAVARES, TOR
155 SHOTS

3. CHRIS KREIDER, NYR
135 SHOTS

HIGH-DANGER SHOOTING PERCENTAGE

1. ARTEMI PANARIN, NYR

36.6%

2. DANIEL SPRONG, DET
35.7%

3. SAM REINHART, FLA
35.1%

HIGH-DANGER SAVES

1. JORDAN BINNINGTON, STL

JORDAN **BINNINGTON**

414

2. CONNOR HELLEBUYCK, WPG
411 SAVES

3. ALEXANDAR GEORGIEV, COL
407 SAVES

OFFENSIVE ZONE TIME

1. CAROLINA HURRICANES

46.6%

2. FLORIDA PANTHERS
44.9%

3. EDMONTON OILERS
43.9%

HYMAN: PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS; BINNINGTON: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

CCM
OILERS
C
97
YDAD

TOP 50 PLAYERS IN THE NHL

1. CONNOR MCDAVID

C | Edmonton Oilers

NOT THAT THERE WAS EVER ANY DOUBT, BUT CONNOR MCDAVID'S PROLIFIC PLAYOFF PERFORMANCE MAKES IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR: HE'S THE NO. 1 PLAYER IN THE NHL, AND HE'S ONLY GETTING BETTER

BY RYAN KENNEDY

MEDIA DAY AT THE Stanley Cup final is a a many-splendored thing. Hordes of reporters from across the world converge to bring coverage to the masses, and said reporters come from a wide variety of backgrounds. There are, of course, the beat writers and international pros who already know these players inside out, but there are also the local TV stations helping out bandwagon fans in the home markets. After that, you get the randoms – celebrity websites and the like who need their content as well, even if they don't really have any particular tie to hockey.

This is how Edmonton Oilers captain Connor McDavid ended up facing the following question from an earnest and well-meaning reporter: *"What is 'Hollywood' about you?"* To which the eternally humble superstar replied, "What's Hollywood about *me*? Not much. Not much at all. I'm just a normal Canadian kid."

A response that is partially true. On the surface, McDavid is indeed a pretty well-adjusted young man from the northern suburbs of Toronto. But while he'd never admit it in public, he also happens to be the best hockey player in the world right now. And he was a major reason why the Oilers nearly pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in Stanley Cup history.

The weight placed on McDavid's shoulders has been there since before he had any shoulders to speak of. His phenom abilities put him on the mainstream hockey radar when he was just 14, and he hasn't disappointed on the ice since.

In terms of mainstream fame, McDavid was a smash hit in the OHL, where he joined the Erie Otters a year early after being granted exceptional status. Erie was also where he met Kris Knoblauch, now his coach in Edmonton, and Connor Brown, now an Oilers teammate. "He was an unbelievable player," Brown said. "A young, awkward kid, but a great kid with a great attitude day-in, day-out at the rink. Always an incredibly hard worker. I learned a lot from him even though he was younger than me and I was the captain. We all liked being on his team and the atmosphere he cultivated."

In 2015, Edmonton won the No. 1 selection in the draft, and McDavid was the prize. Having added Leon Draisaitl and Darnell Nurse in previous drafts, the Oilers once again set out to make things right in the City of Champions after years of futility.

The process was slow – the Oilers won just a single playoff series in McDavid's first six seasons, missing the spring dance three times – but in McDavid and Draisaitl, the franchise had two of the planet's most devastating centers coming into their own. The fact McDavid had Draisaitl with him

CONNOR McDAVID

EDMONTON OILERS

took some of the pressure off, too. "He's such a great player," McDavid said. "It's so fun to be on the ice with him. Away from the rink, our relationship continues to get closer and closer. He's a great dude. People may not know it, but he's hilarious, and I feel really lucky to have been his teammate for so long."

Nurse is another player who has grown up in the NHL with McDavid and Draisaitl – the three have hung out for years – and helping the Oilers get back to contender status has been incredibly satisfying for the big defenseman. "It's been a heckuva ride," Nurse said. "I've enjoyed the highs, the lows and everything that has come along with it that has allowed me to grow as a player and a person. It's one of the coolest jobs and one of the best things to do in a lifetime. For me, it was our group getting back to the playoffs multiple times. We've had a few cracks at long playoff runs, but there's been no satisfaction."

In the past few years, however, McDavid and the Oilers have made progress. Those deep runs indicated the team was learning lessons, and McDavid and Draisaitl continued to tear up NHL stat sheets. The excellence was obvious for those who played against them in the past. "When those guys came in, the Oilers weren't in a great spot," said Corey Perry, who joined the team midway through last season and has re-upped for 2024-25. "They got into a great spot once they got them and could build around them. Those two guys lead by example on and off the ice. The team rallies around those guys, and at the peaks of their careers, they're special players."

Across the past three regular seasons, McDavid put up a stunning total of 408 points – including 64 goals and 153 points in 2022-23, when he won the Hart, Art Ross, Rocket Richard and Ted Lindsay in the process. Draisaitl put up 344 points in the same span, including two seasons with more than 50 goals.

Back in the day, Perry was part of his own young dynamic duo in Anaheim, where he and Ryan Getzlaf ruled the roost (Perry won the Hart and Rocket Richard with the Ducks in 2010-11). So, he comes from a place of experience when he marvels at what his current teammates have been able to do. "It's a lot of pressure on your shoulders, but pressure is a good thing and a privilege," Perry said. "It just made us better players and people. To play against Connor and Leon for so many years, then come into Edmonton and see how they are and what they do on a daily basis, you can see why the team sticks around them."

Which became acutely important at the beginning of 2023-24. The Oilers struggled

> "IT'S BEEN A GREAT JOURNEY FROM BEING THAT YOUNG KID TO BEING IN THIS POSITION NOW
>
> – CONNOR MCDAVID

out of the gates last season, going 3-9-1, which resulted in the firing of coach Jay Woodcroft. Knoblauch came in at a time when only the San Jose Sharks had a worse record and things seemed bleak for an Oilers team that, on paper, looked like a Cup contender. "We were definitely in the weeds there for a bit," said former Oiler Ryan McLeod. "It was frustrating. Everyone was really emotional and upset, but we grew stronger. We had that resilience."

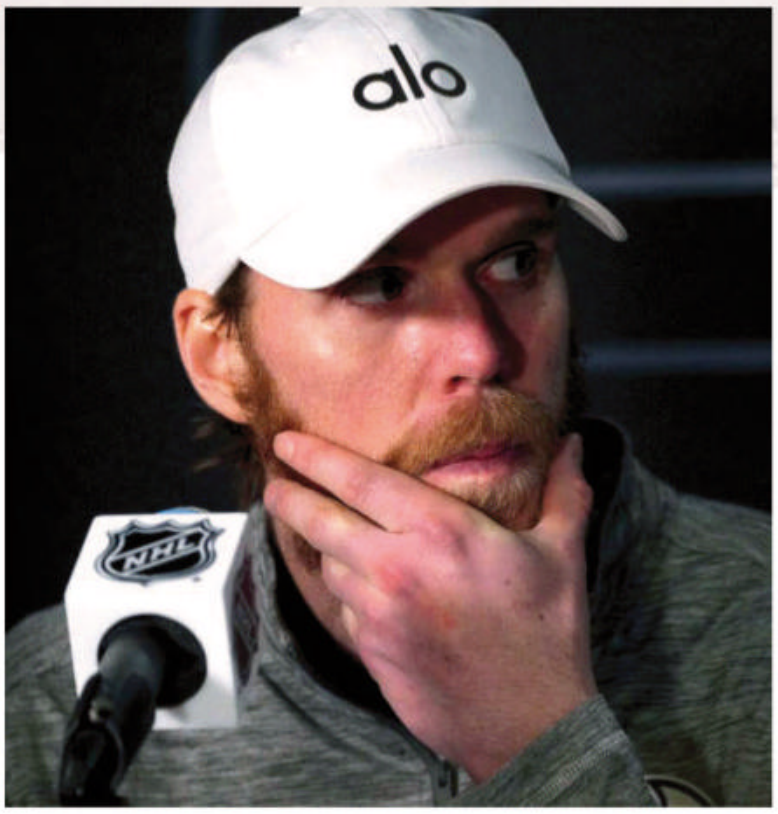
There was also belief from the captain. "Our group always believed we were a good team, even when things weren't going well," McDavid said. "We always believed that if we stuck with it, things would turn around. When you're going through it, obviously it sucks and doesn't feel like that, but we came together. It was good for our group to go through that so early on. It showed we could go through adversity together and stick together and come out the other side."

No. 97 passes No. 99: McDavid broke Gretzky's record for most assists in a single playoff this spring.

Knoblauch brought more of a defensive structure to the team, and the Oilers gained steam. Just before Christmas, they kicked off a 16-game winning streak, which tied for the second-longest run in NHL history. McDavid, who looked a little hobbled for a few games early, returned to destroying the opposition with his speed, skill and vision. Cup or bust? Yeah, it felt that way. "He came into the season with that mentality, and so did this whole team," Brown said. "Through the start of the season, that kind of weight we were playing with, we realized we had to shed that weight to play at our best, and as a group, we all learned that."

By the time the playoffs rolled around, the Oilers looked like the team we all expected

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS



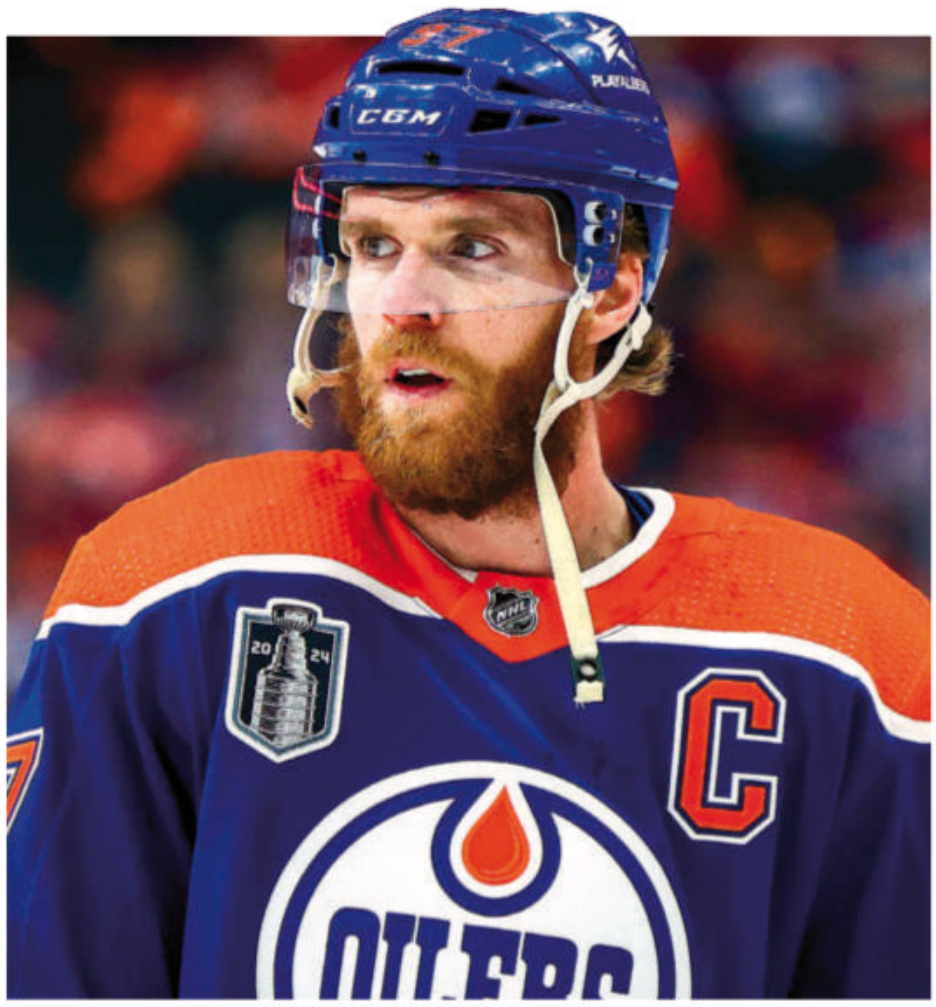
McDavid has been more vocal in recent years, calling out the NHL on issues such as Olympic participation.

them to be. Sure, there was a question of whether third-year goalie Stuart Skinner was the answer in net (spoiler alert: he was), but after Edmonton easily dispatched the Los Angeles Kings in the first round, it felt like something might be there. The rival Vancouver Canucks put up a valiant fight, but without starting goalie Thatcher Demko, the Canucks could only do so much. The Dallas Stars then proved to be a good precursor to the Panthers with their combination of structure and skill, but, again, the Oilers prevailed. Even after being limited by Florida's defense through the first three games of the Cup final, McDavid ended up breaking Wayne Gretzky's record for most assists in a post-season when No. 97 rang up his 32nd helper in a Game 4 blowout. He finished the playoffs with 34 assists and the Conn Smythe Trophy, despite Edmonton losing to Florida in seven games.

Not that McDavid would ever lobby for himself. Even in breaking Gretzky's record, he was muted in his response, citing the pursuit of a championship as his bigger motivation. "It's not lost on me, what he means to the game," McDavid said. "But it's not my focus."

For years, the only thing harder than stopping McDavid on the ice was getting him to say something in front of a microphone. It's understandable that someone who has been on camera since he was a young teen would be reticent to make waves, especially in a sport where tradition dictates that the individual always takes a backseat to the team. When McDavid burst onto the NHL scene, he was indeed seen as 'The Chosen One' in Edmonton and a generational player the likes of which had not been seen since the Pittsburgh Penguins drafted Sidney Crosby first overall a decade prior. And yes, Crosby and Washington's Alex Ovechkin were still the faces of the league as McDavid came up – but neither played in Canada, did they?

So, we didn't hear much from McDavid in the first half of his NHL career, but, slowly, he began to raise his voice. He was disappointed when the league didn't release players to the 2022 Winter Olympics, and he did not hide his displeasure. When it was revealed that the league had banned Pride-themed warm-up jerseys at the end of 2022-23, McDavid called the decision "disappointing" and proudly noted that the Oilers were among the first NHL teams to use Pride tape.



Now firmly ensconced at the top of the hockey world, he was making his opinions known. "He's matured a ton," Brown said. "When you're put through the gauntlet like he has, playing in Canada, being the best player in the world, you have no choice but to mature. He's very mature and dedicated. But there are a lot of things that I see in him from when he was young: the love for the game, the pace he plays with, the mindset. With anything comes growth, and even this year, there's been a lot of growth."

Whether he likes it or not, McDavid is the face of the NHL. Sure, Crosby is still a great player, and Ovechkin may break Gretzky's all-time goals record this season, but McDavid is the central player now. Auston Matthews is a great personality in the major media market of Toronto, but his impact comes more in growing the game and making hockey look hip. Nathan MacKinnon and Jack Hughes have the skill and personality to be focal points, but they play in Denver and Newark – not Canada, where the mania for hockey is year-round.

So, how does McDavid deal with the spotlight? "I wish there was some great answer, but you just get used to it," he said. "You get used to being that guy and doing more media, but it's been a great journey from being that young kid to being in this position now."

At the same time, McDavid's leadership within the Oilers' dressing room has grown as well. "He definitely has some personality, for sure," Brown said. "He's not always business-like. He's a great leader and cultivates a great atmosphere in the room. He truly has come into his own as a great captain. He's a lead-by-example guy, and this is just the start for him."

Perhaps it's fitting, then, that when the Oilers needed him the most, McDavid was there for them. After being slowed down in the first three games of the Cup final by Selke Trophy-winning center Aleksander Barkov and the Panthers' top defense pairing of Aaron Ekblad and Gustav Forsling, McDavid finally shook loose in Game 4, rattling off four points in an 8-1 drubbing of Florida. Facing elimination again in Game 5, he returned with another four points, and, all of a sudden, the series got real. "He's the face of this comeback for us," said Oilers right winger Mattias Janmark at the time. "He pulled the whole group back into the series."

Ultimately, the Panthers took the Cup in seven, which was a crushing disappointment for Edmonton. But with McDavid leading the way, the Oilers will again be in the thick of the title hunt this season.

TOP: JIM RASSOL-USA TODAY SPORTS; MIDDLE: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

TOP 50 PLAYERS IN THE NHL

LEON DRAISAITL

2. NATHAN MACKINNON
C | Colorado Avalanche

Consider this: MacKinnon won his first Hart Trophy last season and did so during a campaign where he only had running mate Valeri Nichushkin part time and the Avs were once again missing captain Gabriel Landeskog. And yet 'Nate Dogg' put up career numbers, powering Colorado with his first 50-goal season – 51 to be precise – and a staggering 140 points. Were it not for Connor McDavid's Conn Smythe Trophy-winning performance in the playoffs, MacKinnon easily could've been No. 1 on our list. In the meantime, the goal is always the same: bring another championship to Denver.

3. LEON DRAISAITL
C | Edmonton Oilers

Perhaps the scariest thing about Draisaitl is he really hasn't been at full power during Edmonton's past three playoff runs. And yet, he was still one of the highest-scoring players in the field. Injuries to Draisaitl's hand and ribs had Oilers trainers marvelling that he was even on the ice during the Stanley Cup final, but the greatest German player in NHL history pushed through. At his apex, Draisaitl is a powerful center with incredible vision who's a dual threat to shoot or dish on Edmonton's lethal power play. He has surpassed 100 points in three straight seasons and will surely do it again this year.

4. CALE MAKAR
D | Colorado Avalanche

Simply put, Makar is what every team is looking for in a franchise defenseman. He's a gifted puck-mover who can quarterback a power play, eat big minutes and defend with his stick. Makar is the gold standard right now and a perennial Norris Trophy contender. Had he not missed five games last season, he likely would've been the top-scoring blueliner in the league (Quinn Hughes took the honor instead), but Makar will inevitably be back in the mix again – and he has many prime years left. Makar will undoubtedly be plenty motivated this season as he seeks his second Cup ring.

5. ALEKSANDER BARKOV
C | Florida Panthers

Captain of the Stanley Cup champions, Barkov was a strong candidate to win the Conn Smythe Trophy that ultimately went to his final foe, McDavid. There was a fierce battle in the final between the two, with Barkov containing the Oilers' No. 97 just enough in the seven-game series to help the Panthers win their first title. Barkov is a dominant two-way center who finally got the big spotlight he deserved last season. Not only did he win the Cup, but he also took home his second career Selke Trophy. You can count on him to be more than a point-per-game player while stifling opponents with his penalty-kill prowess.

6. NIKITA KUCHEROV
RW | Tampa Bay Lightning

The times are changing in Tampa Bay, and with Steven Stamkos gone, the focus will be heavy on Kucherov up front. 'Kuch' is coming off a campaign where he led the NHL in scoring with a ridiculous 144 points, so maybe we shouldn't be concerned. He got a lot of Hart Trophy love, finishing second in voting to MacKinnon, and the case for the Lightning star was solid: not only did Kucherov put up 100 assists (only the fifth player in history to do so), but Tampa Bay's next-highest scorer was Brayden Point with 90 points – a full 54 points back. Are the Bolts still a threat? Ask Kucherov.

7. AUSTON MATTHEWS
C | Toronto Maple Leafs

He came oh-so-close to becoming the ninth NHL player to score 70 goals. Does anyone doubt he could hit that mark this season with his deceptive release? Matthews' two-way game is pretty hot, too.

8. DAVID PASTRNAK
RW | Boston Bruins

With no elite centers to play with anymore, Pastrnak still went out and took care of business as usual as one of the NHL's leading scorers. He also put another playoff dagger into the rival Leafs.

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

9. QUINN HUGHES
D | Vancouver Canucks

A well-earned first Norris Trophy is on Hughes' mantle as he cements his place among the NHL's elite tier of defensemen. His skating and puck play have always been strengths, and now, he's at full power.

10. ARTEMI PANARIN
LW | New York Rangers

Think about where Alexis Lafreniere was before and after he joined Panarin's line, and you'll see Panarin's impact. He was a legit Hart Trophy candidate for the league's top regular-season team.

11. CONNOR HELLEBUYCK
G | Winnipeg Jets

Hellebuyck was the runaway winner of the Vezina Trophy, and for good reason. His goals saved above expected of 33.1 was 11 better than second-place Thatcher Demko, according to moneypuck.com.

12. ADAM FOX
D | New York Rangers

He looked hobbled in the playoffs, but make no mistake: when Fox is healthy, he's still one of the best blueliners in the league. His smarts are off the charts, and he puts up a ton of points.

13. IGOR SHESTERKIN
G | New York Rangers

While he took his lumps early in the season, Shesterkin was back in fine form by the end of the year and remains one of the NHL's premier netminders. He actually improved his advanced stats in the playoffs.

14. SIDNEY CROSBY
C | Pittsburgh Penguins

Are the Penguins a playoff team anymore? Not likely. Is Crosby still one of the best two-way players in the game? Yes. Is he one of the top five players of all-time? It's an easy argument to make now.

15. THATCHER DEMKO
G | Vancouver Canucks

Would the Canucks have advanced to the Stanley Cup final instead of the Oilers if Demko was healthy in the playoffs? It's a big "what if," but he is a difference-maker as one of the NHL's best netminders right now.

16. MIKKO RANTANEN
RW | Colorado Avalanche

He sometimes gets lost in the shuffle thanks to Avs superstars MacKinnon and Makar, but don't forget about the incredible Rantanen. The big-bodied scorer has broken 100 points in back-to-back campaigns.

17. JACK HUGHES
C | New Jersey Devils

When he's healthy, he's a phenom, and we saw the upside in 2022-23. With a better supporting cast this season, expect the elusive (and healed) Hughes to put up some boffo offensive numbers.

18. ROMAN JOSI
D | Nashville Predators

A captain sometimes needs to put his team on his back, and Josi took that concept personally as he delivered the Predators to a playoff spot last year. The 34-year-old is still a three-zone workhorse and Norris threat.

19. CHARLIE MCAVOY
D | Boston Bruins

The two-way stud defenseman can hurt you with a bodycheck or scorch you with a great offensive move. Somehow, McAvoy remains underrated, but opponents know just how tough he is to play against.

20. SEBASTIAN AHO
C | Carolina Hurricanes

The quiet killer gets louder every year, and he's coming off a career season of 89 points. He's been threatening to score 40 goals for a few seasons and was a point-per-gamer in the playoffs.

21. KIRILL KAPRIZOV
LW | Minnesota Wild

Deceptively strong and endlessly entertaining with the puck, Kaprizov continues to produce without a lot of support. His 96 points were 27 more than second-place Matt Boldy on the Wild's scoring list.

22. MATTHEW TKACHUK
LW | Florida Panthers

Can you imagine if former Flame Tkachuk had won the Stanley Cup on Edmonton ice? As it was, the elite pest – and even better two-way force – got his revenge on the Oilers on home ice with the Panthers.

23. WILLIAM NYLANDER
RW | Toronto Maple Leafs

Coming off a career year that saw the silky operator put up 98 points, Nylander now has a massive contract extension to live up to. Will we see his first 100-point campaign in Toronto?

WILLIAM NYLANDER

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

24. FILIP FORSBERG
LW I Nashville Predators

We've long wondered what Forsberg could do with more offensive help. With the additions of Steven Stamkos and Jonathan Marchessault, that time is now. The spotlight will be on the sublime sniper.

25. JEREMY SWAYMAN
G I Boston Bruins

His bosom buddy Linus Ullmark is gone, so we'll see what Swayman can do as a solo artist. But if the past few seasons are any indication, the Bruins remain in good hands between the pipes.

26. VICTOR HEDMAN
D I Tampa Bay Lightning

Armed with a new long-term extension, Hedman enters the season without Stamkos but reunited with former blueline compatriot Ryan McDonagh. At 33, Hedman is coming off one of his best offensive years.

27. J.T. MILLER
C I Vancouver Canucks

A major catalyst for the Canucks, Miller can sting you on special teams and at 5-on-5. He's coming off a 103-point campaign – his best season ever – and also won more than 56 percent of his faceoffs.

28. MITCH MARNER
RW I Toronto Maple Leafs

Yes, Leafs Nation is unsettled, but let's not forget Marner was a top-25 scorer and has flirted with 100 points a couple times. The shifty playmaker kills penalties, too. Big question: can he dial it up for the playoffs?

29. BRAYDEN POINT
C I Tampa Bay Lightning

A new generation of smaller forwards worships Point, who has broken the mold in the NHL and continues to thrive. The 5-foot-10 Lightning star is coming off a 46-goal campaign after 51 the year prior.

30. NOAH DOBSON
D I New York Islanders

Still underrated in most quarters, Dobson is simply a big, mobile defenseman who racks up points. He was seventh in NHL blueline scoring while logging a hefty 24:31 per night for the Islanders last season.

31. SAM REINHART
RW I Florida Panthers

He could have gone anywhere after the Panthers' Cup win, but he chose to stay in Florida. And why not? Reinhart ranked second in the NHL with 57 goals and was crucial to the championship run.

JACCOB SLAVIN

32. ELIAS PETTERSSON
C I Vancouver Canucks

We've seen the upside with 'Petey,' and despite some hills and valleys, finding players who have put up 100 points in the NHL is not easy. Pettersson is ultra-skilled and much improved on faceoffs.

33. MIRO HEISKANEN
D I Dallas Stars

A big-time minute-muncher on the back end, Heiskanen is also an effortless skater and a solid offensive contributor. Dallas is a Stanley Cup favorite, and if they break through, he'll be a big reason.

34. JUUSE SAROS
G I Nashville Predators

Shut down the rumor mill, because Nashville committed big money and term to Saros in the summer, and it's no shock why. Despite being one of the smallest goalies in the league, he's been a rock for the Preds.

35. SERGEI BOBROVSKY
G I Florida Panthers

We're going to keep trusting 'Bob' until he gives us a reason to change course. Though he wasn't bulletproof in the Cup final, he stood tall early in the series and again in Game 7 when it mattered most.

36. EVAN BOUCHARD
D I Edmonton Oilers

Bouchard's continued ascent is dizzying, and breaking Paul Coffey's record for assists in a single playoff by a D-man should serve as a warning for the rest of the league. He's got an absolute bomb of a point shot.

37. JACCOB SLAVIN
D I Carolina Hurricanes

You just can't find elite defensive defensemen like Slavin. He's almost a unicorn. The fact he won his second Lady Byng Trophy only reinforces his worth, because he doesn't take himself out with penalties.

38. JASON ROBERTSON
LW I Dallas Stars

The triggerman took a step back on the goal-scoring front last year – falling from 46 to 29 – but he still had 80 points. Robertson was more effective in the playoffs when he played with Roope Hintz.

TIMOTHY T. LUDWIG-USA TODAY SPORTS

TOP 50 PLAYERS IN THE NHL

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

39. MAT BARZAL
C | New York Islanders

With Patrick Roy taking over as Isles coach in the middle of the season, Barzal had one of his best offensive campaigns ever. So, it only stands to reason that a full year under Roy will be even better.

40. JACK EICHEL
C | Vegas Golden Knights

A full season of Eichel in the lineup would be massive for Vegas, as the prototypical No. 1 center has been aces in his first two-and-a-half years there. Eichel was a key to the Golden Knights' Stanley Cup run in 2023.

41. ANDREI VASILEVSKIY
G | Tampa Bay Lightning

Was it one bad year, or is Vasilevskiy fading? Let's give the guy a chance. After all, he had to overcome major surgery last season. He's still one of the most intimidating netminders in the game.

42. JAKE OETTINGER
G | Dallas Stars

Speaking of intimidating netminders, Oettinger had some of the best advanced stats in the playoffs and will undoubtedly continue growing as he enters his prime. Playing for a great team doesn't hurt, either.

43. JAKE GUENTZEL
RW | Tampa Bay Lightning

He lived up to his reputation as a playoff performer despite his Carolina Hurricanes falling short of expectations. Now signed to a long-term deal for big money in Tampa Bay, Guentzel has a new challenge.

44. JOSH MORRISSEY
D | Winnipeg Jets

One year after 'Norrissey,' the Jets stalwart came back with another great performance and almost as many points. He was even better defensively, so expectations should remain high.

45. ZACH HYMAN
LW | Edmonton Oilers

Like Reinhart, Hyman broke out for his first 50-goal campaign with 54. Then, he netted another 16 in the playoffs. Draisaitl called Hyman a "little bull," and Hyman has smarts to go with that power.

46. KYLE CONNOR
LW | Winnipeg Jets

The Jets speedster still flies under the radar for the most part, so let's make sure he's counted here. Connor remains one of the NHL's more lethal goal-scorers, and he's especially dangerous on the power play.

47. ROOPE HINTZ
C | Dallas Stars

As the veterans cede way to the next generation in Dallas, Hintz will become even more crucial. He's a near point-per-gamer and a faceoff ace, and the Stars struggled when he missed playoff games.

48. BRADY TKACHUK
LW | Ottawa Senators

Power forwards who flirt with 40 goals and ring up more than 100 penalty minutes are hard to find these days, and Tkachuk manages to do it while also having the responsibility of the captaincy.

49. CONNOR BEDARD
C | Chicago Blackhawks

We got a taste in his Calder Trophy-winning campaign, and it was exactly what we expected. A kid with his dazzling skill set and compete level doesn't have to worry about a sophomore slump.

50. STEVEN STAMKOS
C | Nashville Predators

It's a brave new adventure for 'Stammer,' who trades in blue for gold with the Predators. He's getting long in the tooth at 34, but an impressive 40-goal campaign showed there's plenty left in the tank.

CALE MAKAR
COLORADO AVALANCHE

BETTER THAN BOBBY?

IT'S SACRILEGE TO SUGGEST ANY DEFENSEMAN IS SUPERIOR TO ORR. BUT WATCH CALE MAKAR CONTROL THE PLAY WITH HIS SKILL, SKATING AND SAVVY, AND YOU JUST MIGHT BELIEVE THE BLASPHEMY BY KEN CAMPBELL

PERHAPS IT HAS something to do with the fact people weren't fawning all over him and telling him how special he was from the time he was four. Then there was the time when he was 13, and he not only didn't make an under-14 AAA team in his town, he wasn't even asked to try out for one, because he was a 5-foot-2 defenseman. Or it just might have something to do with being raised properly. Because, believe it or not, some guys become elite players in The Best League in the World™ who are not nearly as impressed with themselves as everyone else is.

So, when Cale Makar, still with the flushed cheeks at 25, downplays his accomplishments and generally shuns the attention that comes with them, it's not a case of false modesty. He actually believes it. With Norris, Calder and Conn Smythe Trophy wins, Makar has already established himself as one of the all-time great defensemen in the game. In the eyes of most people, he's the best right now among a group that has to be considered a golden age of elite offensive defensemen. And depending upon when you believe players hit their primes, the best may still be yet to come. Last season, Makar hit the 250-point mark in 241 games, six games faster than Bobby Orr did it. Fifty points later, he got to 300 points in 280 games, one more than Orr.

Is the 2024 version of Cale Makar of the Colorado Avalanche a better hockey player than the 1960s and '70s Bobby Orr of the Boston Bruins? Of course he is, because evolution. (If you have any doubt on that one, try sitting your millennial kid in front of the final three games of the 1987 Canada Cup. Tell them hockey had never been played at a higher level to that point in history. Then hear them say after watching enough to get a feel for it, "Dad, this actually kind of sucks." And then say to yourself, "As much as it pains me to admit it, the kid's kind of right.") But the real question is, even with eras taken into account, could Makar actually challenge Orr for the designation of the greatest defenseman the game has ever seen? Even when Makar was going point-for-point against Orr, the natural instinct was that it's a preposterous notion.

It's a golden age for offensive defensemen in the NHL, and the ultra-talented Makar is the crown jewel.

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

COLORADO AVALANCHE

CALE MAKAR

CALE MAKAR

COLORADO AVALANCHE

But is it? Really? Well, according to Makar, it is. "I mean, it's like comparing a Dodge to a Ferrari," he said.

Man, that's self-deprecating. After all, they didn't call the movie *Dodge v Ferrari*, did they? All right, if Makar is going to classify himself as a Dodge, he's at the very least either a Viper or a 2023 Challenger SRT Demon 170, whatever the heck that is. So, that narrows the gap a little more. As does the fact that he's the most dynamic defenseman to come along since Orr. Nicklas Lidstrom was quietly and subtly otherworldly, Raymond Bourque was a master, Chris Pronger was a monster, and Brian Leetch was as cerebral as they come. But none of them consistently had the game-breaking component that Makar has in his arsenal. Perhaps the comparisons aren't so outlandish.

"I never saw Bobby Orr play," said Makar's former teammate Zach Parise, whose father J.P. played against Orr, "but Makar does stuff that controls the game, stuff that's amazing. He's the best D-man I've ever seen."

Added Avalanche coach Jared Bednar: "I think Cale is deserving of that (comparison). He's an elite player. His career numbers say that. The eye test says that. It's a matter of time before everyone sees what he's capable of. Certainly, there's some appreciation here of what he's doing, and it's growing across North America, what he's able to do and how he's able to play."

And then, of course, there was an observation from none other than Wayne Gretzky during Makar's run to the Stanley Cup and Conn Smythe in 2022, calling Makar, "the closest player we've seen that offensively and defensively can make an impact on the game that much, (since) probably Bobby Orr."

The thing about Orr's greatness is that the gap between him and the rest of the league during that era was immense. He was that much better than every other player on the planet. But it was also a time when players took four-minute shifts and used training camp to get into shape. So, is it so outlandish to suggest Makar might have the same kind of impact as Orr in an era when the margin between the elite players and the rest of the league has narrowed considerably?

Makar joked with his teammates after scoring his 300th point that, "in (Orr's) next 200 games, he gets like 500 points. It's unattainable what he did." Technically, it was 434 points in his next 262 games, but we get the sentiment. There is no way Makar will do that, because that's the equivalent of a 136-point-season pace over three-plus seasons. Only Nikita Kucherov and Nathan MacKinnon managed to eclipse that total in 2023-24. A 100-point season, though, is not out of the question for Makar. Perhaps even a couple of them. Orr played nine full seasons in the NHL, where goals per game bottomed out at 5.58 and maxed out at 6.85. In the five years Makar has been in the league, the lowest number of goals per game has been 5.87, with the highest at 6.36. So, as far as overall league offensive production, their eras are actually fairly comparable.

Orr won eight straight Norris Trophies, which is something else Makar will never do, but that also had a lot to do again with the margin between Orr and the rest of the league. When Orr won his second Norris Trophy in 1968-69, the other four finalists were Tim Horton, Ted Green, Ted Harris and Al Arbour. When he won his final Norris in '74-75, the gap had narrowed, with Denis Potvin, Guy Lapointe, Borje Salming and Serge Savard rounding out the finalists. Over the next few years, Makar will get a steady

Trophy traits: Makar's edgework, speed, and seeing-eye shots separate him from his peers.

STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

diet of rivals in the form of Quinn Hughes, Roman Josi, Adam Fox and a host of others.

But where Makar can draw comparisons to Orr is in how he plays the game. And how he skates. His edges and mobility are complete game-changers. His skating ability allows him to find the open seams in the offensive zone and hold onto the puck longer without fear of losing it and giving up an odd-man rush the other way. "He doesn't have a panic point," said Pronger, who counts Makar and Miro Heiskanen as the best two-way defensemen in the game today. "And much like (former NHL defenseman) Scotty (Niedermayer) and the other great skaters, they don't have a panic point, because they firmly believe they can catch the guy the other way. They're not scared. They can catch them, and they're right, and they know they're right."

Makar also gets the puck on net, or near the net, better than anyone since Pronger. His wrist shot from the point is as good as anyone's since Mike Green, and his ability to find players near the net is reminiscent of Lidstrom. "I just try to shoot it for their stick, whether it's an inch wide or just on the side of the net," Makar said. "You've got to reward guys for going to the net. A good D-man tries to do that."

And Makar is doing it while logging ice time that puts him in the top 10 in the NHL. Along with defense partner Devon Toews, he's also taking the hard assignments against the opponents' best players. But perhaps most impressive is that he incurred only eight minor penalties all season – two each for interference and tripping and one each for cross-checking, slashing, embellishment and puck over the glass. That means Makar was whistled for exactly six physical fouls in 2023-24. Six. In fact, his 16 penalty minutes last season was the third-fewest among the top 50 players in ice time per game, and only six other players who averaged 20 or more minutes per game registered fewer PIM than Makar did.

Jaccob Slavin, one of only four defensemen in NHL history to win the Lady Byng Trophy, was one of those guys. He plays a lot of hard minutes as well, but since the award goes to "the player adjudged to have exhibited the best type of sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct combined with a high standard of playing ability," perhaps there'll be room for Makar to become the fifth. (Provided he cuts out the embellishment penalties, because that's not very sportsmanlike.) "It's not like he's protected and just playing in the 'O' zone," Parise said. "He's our first guy on the penalty kill, too. This guy will probably win the Lady Byng, Norris, Hart, maybe even the Vezina?"

Parise is joking, of course. Orr never won a Vezina, either, although you get the impression that if either he or Makar had ever strapped on the pads, they might. Makar will have to settle for perennially being among the top contenders for the Norris Trophy for the next decade or so in a crowded field that keeps getting better. He appears to be up to the task.

AUSTON MATTHEWS

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

GLOBAL GOALS

AHEAD OF THE 2026 OLYMPICS, SUPER-SNIPER AUSTON MATTHEWS JOINS A CADRE OF NHL STARS HUNTING FOR A TITLE AT THE 4 NATIONS FACE-OFF

BY RYAN KENNEDY

WITH HIS preternatural goal-scoring ability and constantly evolving two-way game, Auston Matthews is one of the deadliest hockey players in the world. But since playing with the elite kids of Team North America at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey, he hasn't had the chance to show what he's capable of on the international stage.

Since the past two Olympics did not feature NHLers, the Toronto Maple Leafs center has been on the sidelines, just like the rest of his superstar friends. In fact, the last time Matthews wore a Team USA jersey was back in 2016 when, as a teenager on the precipice of being drafted first overall by the Leafs, he played for the Americans at the World Championship. He also suited up for the U.S. earlier that year at the 2016 World Junior Championship.

That's all about to change, however.

Matthews was one of the first six American players named to the 4 Nations Face-Off tournament, a new gambit from the NHL to whet the international appetites of fans ahead of the 2026 Olympics in Milan, where the best players in the world are expected to return to that grand stage.

Team USA will face off against Canada, Sweden and Finland in February, and those involved expect fireworks. "It's going to be extremely competitive," Matthews said. "Best-on-best is something that guys have really been wanting for a while, and I think it's just great for the game. It's going to be extremely competitive, and there's a lot of pride in playing for your country."

Growing up, Matthews found his own U.S. heroes on the international stage. "It was a tough re-

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sult, but the 2010 Olympic team, they placed second," he said. "But, obviously, a lot of those guys, Patrick Kane or T.J. Oshie, the whole shootout and all that stuff against Russia (in 2014), that's probably my fondest memory of watching Team USA as a kid."

Matthews kicked off his elite career playing for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program for two years, where his teammates included Matthew Tkachuk and Charlie McAvoy, who were also named to Team USA's 4 Nations roster. In all likelihood, the majority of Team USA's 4 Nations squad will have NTDP roots. All six named so far cut their teeth at 'The Program,' with Jack Eichel, Adam Fox and Quinn Hughes also on board. "You're with each other for two years, and you become extremely close," Matthews said. "So, I'm still really tight with a lot of guys I played with there. It's just a unique program. Even though you go your separate ways, you always keep in touch. I have a lot of really great memories there, and we had a really great group of guys, so I'm looking forward to reconnecting with a lot of them."

Not that it will be easy for Matthews and the U.S. at the 4 Nations. Canada's first six included Connor McDavid, Nathan MacKinnon and Sidney Crosby, while the Swedes boast blueline kings Victor Hedman and Erik Karlsson. Finland counters with Stanley Cup captain Aleksander Barkov and Nashville's franchise goalie, Juuse Saros.

"In situations and tournaments like this, it's kind of about who can come together and be a team as quickly as possible," Matthews said. "That's usually the team that has the most success, and that's the main goal. You're going to have a lot of really elite players. It's just putting the ego aside and doing what's best for the team and coming together as quickly as possible."

Matthews' last international action was in 2016, when he played in the world juniors, men's worlds and World Cup.

> **"BEST-ON-BEST IS SOMETHING THAT GUYS HAVE REALLY BEEN WANTING FOR A WHILE, AND I THINK IT'S JUST GREAT FOR THE GAME** – AUSTON MATTHEWS

It will also be a fun event for the coaches and GMs constructing the rosters. The Americans are led by Cup-winning bench boss Mike Sullivan and GM Bill Guerin, himself a U.S. international alum. And being on the same side as a talent such as Matthews will be a nice break from their usual jobs in the NHL. "Anytime you have players of that caliber, you certainly would rather have them on your bench," Sullivan said. "It's going to be exciting. It will give me and Billy an opportunity to get to know these guys on a more personal level. And that's one of the more fulfilling things about these types of experiences."

The 4 Nations might act as a nice respite for Matthews, who will again be chasing that elusive playoff success in Toronto. The stakes continue to ramp up for the group, though there is no doubt the Leafs have one of the top players in the world in their lineup. Matthews nearly hit the vaunted 70-goal mark last season, falling one tally short. He could easily find that range again this year, which would help the Leafs get into an advantageous spot for the post-season. With Chris Tanev and Oliver Ekman-Larsson joining the blueline, Toronto's defense will have much more of a playoff feel, while young goalie Joseph Woll looks poised for a full-season breakout.

So, Matthews will get two opportunities for glory this season – can he pull off the double? H

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VICTOR HEDMAN

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

RIDE THE LIGHTNING

AFTER A SUMMER OF CHANGE IN TAMPA BAY, MAINSTAY VICTOR HEDMAN IS READY TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP TORCH **BY DILLON COLLINS**

IN MANY WAYS, VICTOR Hedman was born to be a Bolt. Imposing, explosive and unrelenting in his pursuit of greatness, the 6-foot-7, 245-pound defenseman has been everything and more for the Tampa Bay Lightning since the club drafted him second overall in 2009.

Hedman is a six-time Norris Trophy finalist (winning the award in 2018), a six-time all-star, a two-time Stanley Cup champion and the 2020 Conn Smythe Trophy winner. Now 33, he continues to be one of the game's absolute best on the blueline. But in seasons of change, there are no certainties, and nothing is more sure than that there is no sure thing.

The Lightning's dynastic core experienced a shock to the system this summer with the departure of longtime captain and franchise ace Steven Stamkos, the team's all-time leader in multiple metrics. The news of Stamkos' signing with Nashville came just one day before Hedman – Stamkos' longtime alternate captain and friend – inked a four-year, $32-million extension to remain with the team through 2028-29.

"Obviously, seeing 'Stammer' go, losing a guy that has been my best friend for the past 15 years, was not something that anyone expected," Hedman said. "Me and Stammer have had a lot of conversations throughout the past few weeks. What's been said is going to stay between us, but it's a sad, sad day, not just for me but for the fans, the organization and the city of Tampa.

"It's going to be hard to imagine going into our locker room and going into Amalie Arena and not seeing him on the ice. It's going to be super, super weird, but at the end of the day, hockey is a business, and this is what it has come to. And, for us, it's just about looking forward."

The exit of Stamkos, owner of the most goals (555) and points (1,137) in Lightning history, was just one of the off-season moves made by GM Julien BriseBois to shake up the roster. The club brought back blueliner Ryan McDonagh in May before shipping off defender Mikhail Sergachev and gritty winger Tanner Jeannot in separate trades at the draft. Tampa Bay also made one of the biggest splashes in free agency, inking sought-after scoring winger Jake Guentzel to a seven-year, $63-million deal. But no addition or subtraction shook the hockey world quite like that of Stamkos.

"Best-case scenario, we would have loved to finish our careers in Tampa Bay together...I strongly admire what 'Stammer' has done not just for me but the whole city and the organization, and being a big part in winning two Stanley Cups and having all the records that he has. He'll obviously go down as one of the best to ever play the game."

But as the saying goes, the show must

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VICTOR HEDMAN

For the first time in his long NHL career, Hedman enters a season without Stamkos at his side.

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

go on, and Hedman continued his standard Spartan-like off-season fitness regimen with longtime Swedish trainer Joakim Dettner, who has honed his game with a combination of explosiveness, agility and endurance. Hedman is no stranger to pushing his mind and body in the name of the game he loves.

It took Hedman a few years to find his NHL footing, but by Year 5, he was receiving Norris and all-star votes. From that point forward, there was no stopping this boulder of a blueliner.

In 2013-14, Hedman was one of the game's most potent offensive threats from the blueline, collecting 55 points in 75 games. He eclipsed that total with 72 points in 2016-17, then won the Norris the following year. The Bolts claimed the Presidents' Trophy in 2018-19, then won back-to-back Stanley Cups in 2019-20 and '20-21, with Hedman earning the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP for the first of those two titles.

His production has hardly slowed with age. Following a career-high 85 points in 2021-22, Hedman put up 49 points in 76 games the following year, then rebounded with a near point-per-game pace of 76 points in 78 games last season, helping to earn the high-dollar contract extension in the only NHL market he's ever called home.

"I love the organization," Hedman said." I love the city. I love the fans. And I love playing and wearing that Lightning (logo) on my chest. I'm super excited to do that for another four years, and, hopefully, when it's all said and done, to retire as a Bolt."

Off the ice, family man Hedman has laid down roots in the Tampa Bay area. His wife and children love the Sunshine State, which made the decision to re-up with the club an easy one. "For me, I don't know anything else,

> "I LOVE THE ORGANIZATION. I LOVE THE CITY. I LOVE THE FANS"
>
> – VICTOR HEDMAN

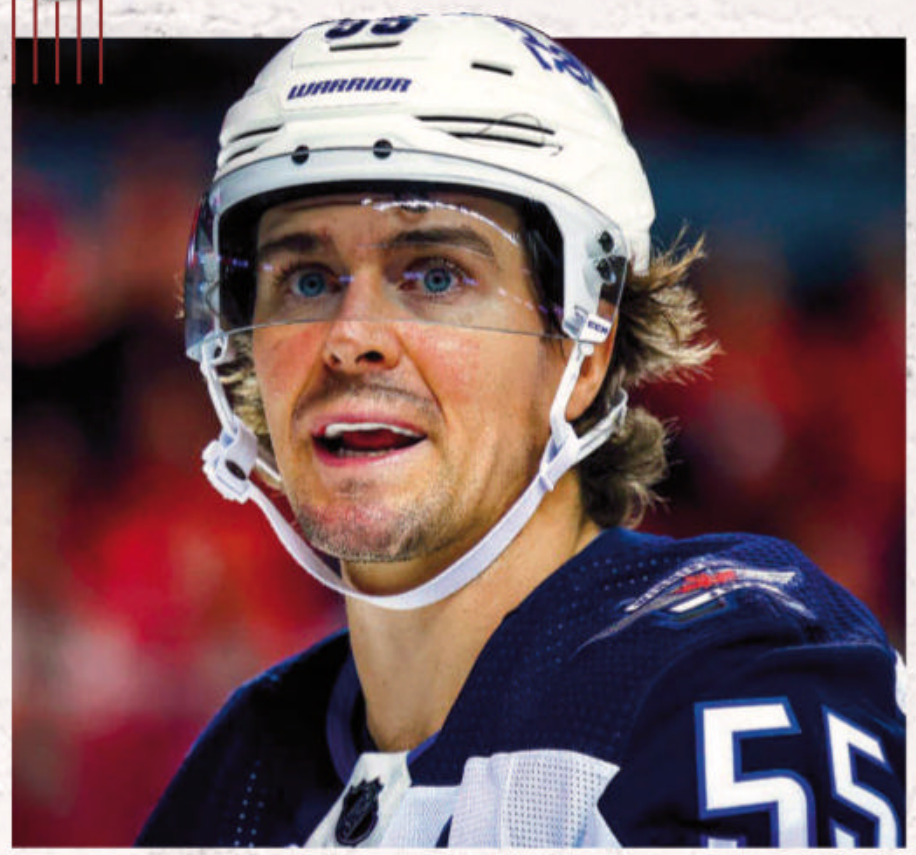
and I don't want to know anything else," Hedman said. "Tampa has become a home for us. Me and my wife, we have our two boys born in Tampa and roots there that go a long way. I've been there almost half my life. I'm just super proud and excited to hopefully retire a Bolt."

Hedman is understandably tight-lipped at the prospect of becoming the Lightning's next captain, but he's the undisputed leader in Tampa Bay and a natural choice to wear the 'C.' He's calm, composed and tactful – a player who leads by example on and off the ice.

Said as modestly as expected for a player of his character, the next phase for the Lightning will require an all-hands-on-deck approach. "For us, it's got to be a group effort," Hedman said. "And it obviously starts with me. I have to take another step in my abilities and my leadership abilities. It's so fresh and so emotional right now. But there's going to be a realization early on in training camp that 'Stammer' isn't there, and we're just going to have to be ready for that. And obviously, for me, I have to be ready to try and lead and steer the ship and just help the group to come together."

MARK SCHEIFELE

WINNIPEG JETS



Scheifele is in it for the long haul in Winnipeg, where he's on pace to be the Jets' all-time scoring leader.

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MAKING HIS

MARK SCHEIFELE HAS A CHANCE TO SPEND HIS ENTIRE CAREER IN WINNIPEG – AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, LEAVE A LEGACY SIMILAR TO THAT OF HIS MENTOR AND JETS ICON DALE HAWERCHUK **BY KEN CAMPBELL**

EVERY SINGLE time he shows up for work at the Canada Life Centre or whatever they're calling it these days, Mark Scheifele makes his way down Hargrave Street in downtown Winnipeg. When he stops at the traffic light at Graham Avenue before pulling into the players' underground parking lot, he looks over to see a magnificent bronze statue of Dale Hawerchuk, which is right there on Dale Hawerchuk Way. It's a 10-foot-high piece of work, 13 feet high if you include the base, depicting 'Ducky' carrying the puck in mid-stride, his left arm out and his right at the top of his stick. Hawerchuk knew the Jets had been planning to erect a statue of him before he died of cancer in the summer of 2020, and he joked to a former teammate that they originally wanted to make a statue of him backchecking, but there was no photographic evidence available of him doing that.

Seeing that statue gives Mark Scheifele all the feels. Hawerchuk was such a big part of his life, becoming a mentor and his coach in junior. The story goes that Scheifele was ripping it up in Jr. B hockey as a 16-year-old and was all set to go to Cornell when he and his parents stopped in on Hawerchuk, who was running the OHL's Barrie Colts at the time, on the way home from a tournament in Huntsville, Ont. It took about 10 minutes for Hawerchuk to convince Scheifele that his path to the NHL should be through Barrie. Scheifele has some wonderful memories of Hawerchuk, who taught him both life lessons and how to win defensive-zone draws on his off-side.

That statue also gives the 31-year-old Scheifele – how did that happen so quickly? – a chance to ponder his own leg-

WINNIPEG JETS

MARK SCHEIFELE

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MARK SCHEIFELE

WINNIPEG JETS

"HE HAS THAT (POTENTIAL) TO BE A ONE-TEAM PLAYER THAT WINS THE CUP AND IS THE CAPTAIN AND GETS A BRONZE STATUE IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING" – PAUL MAURICE

acy in Winnipeg. And it's not just because former Jets coach Paul Maurice once said of Scheifele, "He has that (potential) to be a 'one-team player that wins the Cup and is the captain of it at some point and gets a bronze statue in front of the building' kind of guy." For the record, Maurice made that comment in early 2019, more than two years before they commissioned the Hawerchuk memorial.

It's easy to forget that Hawerchuk played seven of his 16 seasons and 475 of his 1,188 career NHL games for teams other than the Jets. He's that embedded in the fabric of the franchise. At the unveiling of the statue in 2022, where Scheifele gave a passionate speech, Hawerchuk's wife, Crystal, told the assembled crowd, "Now he is back home again in Winnipeg."

So, yeah, about that. We live in a world where Ilya Kovalchuk is considered the current Jets' all-time leader in goals, which is all kinds of ridiculous because he played in Atlanta before the franchise relocated to Winnipeg. We also live in a world where Hawerchuk is fifth in games played, second in goals, third in assists and second in points for the now-and-perhaps-forever defunct Coyotes/Jets franchise. But let's cut the nonsense here. Hawerchuk is first in points with 929 and in goals with 379 among players who were actually wearing a Jets uniform at the time. He's second in assists with 550, three behind Thomas Steen.

But Scheifele is climbing the charts. With 717 career points, he still has a way to go to pass Blake Wheeler (795) and Steen (817) before getting to Hawerchuk. His 297 goals put him 82 in arrears of Hawerchuk, and his 420 assists are 133 behind Steen. If he plays a full season in 2024-25, Scheifele will pass Wheeler (874) for No. 2 in games played, and he needs two healthy seasons to catch Steen for No. 1 all-time (950). But he's got some time.

Just when it looked last summer as though he might play out the final season of his deal in Winnipeg, Scheifele signed a seven-year pact worth $59.5 million, which kicks in this season – the exact same contract signed by Vezina Trophy-winning

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goalie Connor Hellebuyck on the same day. So, there's a good chance Scheifele becomes the longest-tenured Jet and the leader in almost every significant category, although Laurie Boschman's 1,338 penalty minutes will be safe. "It's a huge deal," Scheifele said. "To have the opportunity for your legacy to be a part of a team for your entire career is a huge honor. It shows a lot of trust in them for me and me in them as well. That's a big reason I decided to stick around. We have a fantastic group of guys who want to work on their game."

They really do things differently in Winnipeg. The organization has created a close-knit, family-like atmosphere for its players and values loyalty as a two-way street. That might not matter to a lot of players, but it does to Scheifele, who doesn't seem to mind being a large fish on a small, frozen pond.

As for the statue thing, well, that will take care of itself. Some of that will depend on whether Scheifele & Co. can do what Hawerchuk could not and lead the Jets to the promised land. For all his brilliance, Hawerchuk was never able to get the Jets out of the second round, mainly because he played at a time when division rivals Edmonton and Calgary were in the middle of an arms race.

In his 11 full seasons in Winnipeg, Scheifele has played in one conference final and one second round, pockmarked by nine years where the Jets either lost in the first round or didn't make the playoffs. When the Jets cleared out their stalls after losing in the first round last season, Scheifele talked about how the Jets want to be more like the team that vanquished them, the Colorado Avalanche. "I think Colorado is a great team to learn from," Scheifele said. "You see what (Nathan) MacKinnon has done. You see what (Cale) Makar has done. You see what guys who have been traded there or signed there have done with their careers. Those guys take great pride in their bodies and their games and going home every summer and improving. We saw firsthand the abilities that those guys have.

Scheifele liked the way he played last year, with a caveat: "There's always room to grow in all areas of the game."

"They're skilled players, but I know them personally, and they go home every summer and give it their all. They don't leave one stone unturned on improving their games. I think we all have to look at ourselves in the mirror and say, 'What am I doing to improve, to try to get 10 percent better this summer?' I really look at those guys and that team with a ton of respect."

That's a pretty high bar, but there are some key pieces on the Jets roster. Scheifele is the No. 1 center who has sneakily developed a good two-way game. On defense, they have Josh Morrissey, who is under contract for four more seasons and whom Scheifele says, "is one of my best friends whom I skate with in the summer and spend pretty much every waking minute of the season with. That's something you can't find anywhere." And in net, there's Hellebuyck, who burped up a mess in the playoffs but remains one of the best goaltenders on the planet.

Scheifele has been a point-per-game player throughout most of his career, but he has made enormous strides on the defensive side of the game. Last season in particular, he became that two-way center every winning team must possess.

"I liked my year," Scheifele said. "I don't think you can ever look at it and say, 'This is the apex,' because there's always room to grow in all areas of the game. There's always things to work on. But I liked the things I worked on last summer, and I liked the things I worked on throughout the season. I look at every day as a chance to get better and a chance to work on something maybe you didn't do well the previous game or you haven't done well in the last week or so."

And what Scheifele can't control, he leaves to those at a higher pay grade. From the time he went to Baptist Church every Sunday as a child in his hometown of Kitchener, Ont., Scheifele has never hidden his Christianity, which is another thing he shares with Morrissey. Whether it's getting injured or dealing with everything that comes with being a professional athlete, Scheifele believes there is a greater plan for him. "I just feel very, very, very blessed for everything that happens," he said. "And everything happens for a reason, and you've just got to trust in God's will and know it's not up to you, it's up to Him."

And if Scheifele plays his career in Winnipeg and accomplishes what he hopes to, presumably He will approve of the statue of Scheifele alongside Hawerchuk.

VINCE DUNN

AS GOOD AS DUNN

HE NEVER RECEIVED MUCH HYPE COMING UP OR DURING HIS EARLY NHL DAYS IN ST. LOUIS, BUT VINCE DUNN HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE LEAGUE'S MOST PRODUCTIVE DEFENSEMEN SINCE LANDING IN SEATTLE BY JARED CLINTON

A KEEN SENSE OF timing is often among the best weapons in the arsenal of the NHL's top offensive defensemen. And given his standing among the leading blueline point producers the past two seasons, it can safely be said that alongside his penchant for delivering a crisp

stretch pass and slipping into shooting lanes, Vince Dunn has discovered the fine art of arriving in the right place at the right time.

Now, if only that skill could've translated to his summer holiday travels. Alas, a trip Dunn had hoped would align with experiencing rabid football fandom during UEFA's Euro 2024 didn't quite pan out. "Funny enough, the travel schedule that I had made coincidentally lined up with the Euro teams playing, Italy and Portugal, while I was there," Dunn said. "And then, while I was there, flights ended up getting changed and cancelled. When I was in Italy, Portugal was playing, and while I was in Portugal, Italy was playing. So I didn't really get to see the European hype."

the AHL All-Star Game and then by making the most of meager minutes in St. Louis. Four years into his NHL career, though, Dunn found himself shut out from the top of the Blues' depth chart, blocked by Justin Faulk, Torey Krug and Colton Parayko. And while he speaks highly about his time with the organization, he looks back and remembers yearning for a greater challenge. "As my years went on in St. Louis, I think I plateaued and, obviously, wasn't ever given another level of opportunity to really showcase what I knew I always had," he said. "Maybe not to this capability, but I always knew I had more to show."

Indeed, since he was scooped up from the Blues by the Kraken in the expansion draft, Dunn has seen his career on a steady upward trajectory. First, he stepped into a regular top-four role. By his second year in the Emerald City, he became the blueline's de facto leader. Now, heading into his fourth season in Seattle, Dunn can be counted among the league's best offensive defensemen. In fact, there are only 11 defenders who had more points and scored at a higher per-game rate than Dunn over the past two seasons.

you can have all three of those things in one way, shape or form, that just brings the best out of your natural skill and talent."

Also a boon? The partnership he's formed with fellow blueliner Adam Larsson. Over the past two seasons, the two have been almost inseparable. Of Dunn's more than 2,600 minutes at five-a-side since the start of 2022-23, only 346 have been played without Larsson as his partner.

What has made the two such a great fit is the "yin and yang balance," said Dunn. Whereas Larsson can be considered an archetypal big-bodied, stay-at-home defenseman, Dunn is of a modern, free-wheeling breed. And there's also the matter of mindset. Larsson, who is nearly four years to the day Dunn's senior, is referred to by the younger of the pairing as having an "old-school mentality," and Dunn said his more veteran partner has helped shape his on- and off-ice outlook. Together, they help each other remain on an even keel. "We know we pull a lot of weight back there, so we never want to let each other down," Dunn said. "And we know that if we're not playing our best, we're definitely letting the team down. There's a lot of accountability there, which really helps us push each other."

Dunn's importance, in particular, has perhaps never been more apparent than last season. When he was in the lineup, the Kraken managed a .568 points percentage, which would have kept them in the playoff hunt. But in the 23 games Dunn missed – including all but two of Seattle's final 21 games after he sustained an upper-body injury in March – the Kraken cratered to an ugly .304 points percentage.

The Kraken were in the playoff hunt with Dunn in the lineup last year, but they cratered when he got hurt.

It was a tough break for Dunn, but there's only so much heartbreak that can be conjured up for the 27-year-old Seattle Kraken defenseman, who has, over the past three seasons, experienced an almost unfettered personal rise and individual on-ice success.

To some, Dunn's ascension has been somewhat surprising. To others, it's been wholly unexpected. Drafted in the second round, 56th overall, in 2015, Dunn was rarely in the limelight. The native of Mississauga, Ont., didn't get the attention that comes with representing Canada at the under-18s or the world juniors. And at no point in his development was he considered the cream of the Blues' talent crop. Case in point: panels of scouts polled in The Hockey News' Future Watch issues in 2016 and 2017 didn't rank him among St. Louis' top three up-and-comers.

But Dunn continued to make the most of every opportunity, first in big-league training camps, later by earning a selection to

In part, Dunn's success is predicated on many of the same attributes he's long possessed. He's been blessed with exceptional on-ice vision and skating ability. He also has a great mind for the game. But a big part of his transformation has been mental and physical maturation and accepting that, at times, he'll have to get his nose dirty. "That brings out the best in my game, being aggressive and being assertive," he said. "Not being a dirty player or a reckless player, but holding my ground and making sure I'm able to handle myself out there. I just want to always be a presence out there, not just offensively but defensively and physically. If

But after a summer of rest and recovery, Dunn feels positive about where he's at. He also feels good about Seattle's direction, which included bringing in coach Dan Bylsma and adding center Chandler Stephenson and defenseman Brandon Montour via free agency. With the addition of Montour, as well as Josh Mahura, Dunn will have extra competition on the blueline. But just as he has throughout his career, he'll meet the challenge head-on and treat it as an opportunity to add new elements to his game. "I'll probably be seeing more of the defensive side of draws and defensive situations," he said, "and hopefully even getting a bit of penalty-killing time. That'd be great for my game."

Speaking more broadly, he sees it as a step toward the Kraken's primary goal: returning to the post-season and challenging for the Stanley Cup. "When teams make changes, they're motivated to win," Dunn said. "That's what I'm ready to do." H

LEFT: USA TODAY SPORTS; RIGHT: STEVEN BISIG-USA TODAY SPORTS

DALLAS STARS

IT'S IN THE STARS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THIS SEASON, DALLAS FELL TO NEW JERSEY IN THE 2000 STANLEY CUP FINAL. THIS TIME AROUND, THE STARS RETURN THE FAVOR

BY RYAN KENNEDY

The Stars have reached three conference finals in the past five years. It's time for a championship breakthrough.

BELIEVE IT OR not, we're approaching the 25th anniversary of the New Jersey Devils winning the Stanley Cup over the Dallas Stars. In 2025, the staff of The Hockey News predicts that Dallas will get belated revenge of sorts by seizing the championship over those same Devils.

Coming off a 2024 Cup final that had enough twists and turns to give Florida-Edmonton instant-classic status, the bar has been set high for drama. And the road to the final will be difficult for both teams.

Most obviously, we must acknowledge that New Jersey didn't even make the playoffs last season. But there were some pretty big caveats to explain that. Linchpin defenseman Dougie Hamilton missed almost the entire campaign due to injury, burgeoning superstar Jack Hughes was sidelined for 20 games, and the goaltending was poor at best.

A healthy New Jersey lineup for this season looks impressive. In terms of goaltending, the team traded for a legit No. 1 in Jacob Markstrom, while Jake Allen (acquired at last year's trade deadline) returns as a solid backup option. The blueline also got stronger with the addition of erstwhile Carolina Hurricanes defender Brett Pesce, plus expected growth from uber-promising youngsters Luke Hughes and Simon Nemec. Behind the bench, there's a new voice in Sheldon Keefe – who doesn't have the best track record in the NHL playoffs but did win an AHL Calder Cup championship with the Toronto Marlies before he took over the Maple Leafs.

Sure, there will be competi-

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

tion in the East. The New York Rangers were the Presidents' Trophy winners last season, but their under-the-hood numbers were just so-so, which helps explain why they fell short in the playoffs. With little roster change over the summer, the Rangers have a challenge on their hands. The reigning champions from Florida will be formidable again, but we worry about two short summers in a row for the Cats. As for the Hurricanes, we won't get fooled again – until they prove us wrong.

Out West, the Stars will have a challenging path – but it won't be any harder than last year when they had to play Vegas in the first round, followed by Colorado and Edmonton. Those Oilers will be contenders once again, as will the Avalanche. You know Connor McDavid and Nathan MacKinnon won't be satisfied with how last season ended for their teams.

This is where we acknowledge just how hard it is to go all the way. Let's not forget that Vancouver pushed the Oilers to Game 7 despite using their third-string goalie throughout the series. As for the Avalanche, the unknowns surrounding Gabriel Landeskog (injury) and Valeri Nichushkin (suspension as part of the NHL/NHLPA player assistance program) are notable. Yes, Colorado has all-world talents in MacKinnon, Cale Makar and Mikko Rantanen, but are they deep enough to carve a path back to the championship in a competitive conference?

While it won't be easy, Dallas is battle-tested enough to push through for the franchise's second Cup title. Yes, the Stars lost a couple of important hardened veterans in Chris Tanev and Joe Pavelski, but more importantly, we'll see several Stars in their absolute primes this season. Keep in mind, when Dallas lost to Edmonton in the conference final last spring, the Stars didn't have the full services of a banged-up Roope Hintz. When Hintz did play, his running mate Jason Robertson was much more effective. Wyatt Johnston has already established himself as an excellent young NHLer, and he projects to be better this time around, while rookies Logan Stankoven and Mavrik Bourque give the team incredible depth up front. And let's not forget captain Jamie Benn, who will look to continue his recent 'Bennaissance.'

The back end is dominated by the criminally underrated Miro Heiskanen, who has found an amazing partner in Thomas Harley. The Stars have a lot of size on the blueline (a prerequisite if you want to win the Cup), and they could get even bigger if 6-foot-6, 235-pound rookie Lian Bichsel makes the team. Meanwhile, Jake Oettinger continues to develop into an elite NHL netminder and is poised to continue his ascent at 25. The Stars have a seasoned coach in Peter DeBoer and a savvy GM in Jim Nill, so the braintrust is good to go.

Will the path to the Cup be easy? Of course not. But why *not* Dallas? Like the Devils, they were a top-10 possession team last year and have the chance to be even better this year.

The top-end parity in the NHL is daunting, as we haven't even mentioned squads such as Vegas or Nashville – we even had an Islanders truther in the THN staff meeting – but the Stars have proven themselves to be a tough out in recent years, and we feel they've learned all the right lessons. As long as they stay healthy and get the internal growth we expect, there will be a lot of celebrating deep in the heart of Texas next summer.

The Hockey News

2024-25 PREDICTIONS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

1. Florida Panthers PG. 94
2. Toronto Maple Leafs PG. 154
3. Tampa Bay Lightning PG. 150
4. Boston Bruins* PG. 54
5. Buffalo Sabres PG. 58
6. Detroit Red Wings PG. 86
7. Ottawa Senators PG. 126
8. Montreal Canadiens PG. 106

Metropolitan Division

1. New Jersey Devils PG. 114
2. New York Rangers PG. 122
3. Carolina Hurricanes PG. 66
4. New York Islanders* PG. 118
5. Washington Capitals PG. 170
6. Pittsburgh Penguins PG. 134
7. Philadelphia Flyers PG. 130
8. Columbus Blue Jackets PG. 78

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

1. Dallas Stars PG. 82
2. Colorado Avalanche PG. 74
3. Nashville Predators PG. 110
4. Winnipeg Jets* PG. 174
5. Utah Hockey Club* PG. 158
6. Minnesota Wild PG. 102
7. St. Louis Blues PG. 138
8. Chicago Blackhawks PG. 70

Pacific Division

1. Edmonton Oilers PG. 90
2. Vegas Golden Knights PG. 166
3. Vancouver Canucks PG. 162
4. Los Angeles Kings PG. 98
5. Seattle Kraken PG. 146
6. Calgary Flames PG. 62
7. Anaheim Ducks PG. 50
8. San Jose Sharks PG. 142

**Wild-card playoff teams*

STANLEY CUP PICK

Dallas defeats New Jersey

ANAHEIM DUCKS

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
27-50-5 (.360)

OVERTIME
5-3

SHOOTOUT
1-2

OVERALL
30th

OFFENSE
2.48 (30th)

DEFENSE
3.57 (30th)

POWER PLAY
17.9% (25th)

PENALTY KILL
72.4% (31st)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.24 (30th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.63 (21st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Killorn (18:44)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. Fowler (24:25)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Greg Cronin

GM
Pat Verbeek

ARENA
Honda Center

CAPACITY
17,174

AHL AFFILIATE
San Diego Gulls

ECHL AFFILIATE
Tulsa Oilers

PLAYOFF RECORD
0-0 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY GREG BEACHAM

PAT VERBEEK INSPIRED STRONG emotions during his playing career. But as Anaheim's GM, he has yet to put together a team that excites.

Verbeek has been preaching extreme patience since his first day on the job in February 2022, when he predicted it might take five years for the Ducks to be a playoff team again. After Anaheim lost a franchise-record 50 games in regulation last season and meekly missed the post-season for the sixth consecutive year, Verbeek only said he wants Anaheim to "make a push" to get "in the conversation of making the playoffs" in 2024-25.

He then came up empty in free agency, missing out on every big name despite $20-plus million in cap room and obvious need for veteran help. Verbeek and coach Greg Cronin have accumulated a treasure trove of blue-chip talent during this slow rebuilding process, but it's not a great sign when a team's most exciting off-season additions are new uniforms and an updated version of its classic logo.

>OFFENSE

The Ducks are dead last over the past five seasons at 2.53 goals per game, but that could change soon, as nearly every team would be thrilled to have Anaheim's collection of attacking prospects. Cronin's task is to get them to shine at the highest level. Leo Carlsson gave many glimpses of his extraordinary ability while scoring 29 points in 55 games as a teenaged rookie. His left winger this season could be 20-year-old Cutter Gauthier, the precocious goal-scorer plucked from Philadelphia in the boldest move of Verbeek's tenure. Mason McTavish and offense-minded defenseman Pavel Mintyukov made strides when they

weren't injured. Trevor Zegras suited up for only 31 games last year while learning to play two-way hockey, but his skill set remains tantalizing. Anaheim's youngsters still have too few veterans to lean on, but Verbeek added Robby Fabbri in a trade with Detroit. Frank Vatrano returns after leading the Ducks with a career-high 60 points, and Troy Terry has three straight 20-goal seasons.

DEFENSE

The Ducks improved a bit defensively under Cronin, although they couldn't have been much worse after allowing more goals (355) during 2022-23 than any team since 1995-96. The only new name on the blueline is Brian Dumoulin. He's a solid vet but not a game-changer. Ducks lifer Cam Fowler and hardnosed Radko Gudas are back along with youngsters Mintyukov, Olen Zellweger and Jackson LaCombe.

GOALTENDING

Lukas Dostal, 24, looks ready to be an NHL starter. Trouble is, the Ducks still have John Gibson under contract for three more years at $6.4 million per season. Gibson's declining performance last year made it tougher to trade him, and Anaheim could enter the season with the two netminders sharing the No. 1 job. It's not the worst problem to have, but the Ducks are hoping Gibson rediscovers his elite form.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Ducks were dismal, ranking 25th on the power play and 31st on the penalty kill. Cronin dropped assistant coach Newell Brown, who coordinated the power play, and added first-time NHL assistant Rich Clune, who ran the AHL Toronto Marlies' man-advantage unit last season after being hired Nov. 29.

INTANGIBLES

The Ducks haven't had a captain since Ryan Getzlaf retired two years ago, and their lack of conventional leadership seems glaring when things go wrong. Verbeek said they'll likely appoint a captain this season. While some believe giving the captaincy to an elite youngster such as Carlsson or McTavish makes sense as a long-term statement of stability, veterans such as Gudas, Fowler and Alex Killorn will play leadership roles with or without the 'C.'

CUP ODDS

75/1

ROOKIES

Gauthier is likely to get his shot, and he'll be in the spotlight after his messy breakup with the Flyers. The Ducks are being patient with Tristan Luneau after his knee infection, but they'd clearly love the promising defenseman to prove he's NHL-ready.

X-FACTOR

The Ducks' young core needs time to mature, but the franchise's overall lack of urgency must change before it returns to the playoff conversation. Verbeek's placid public demeanor and his inability to land any major players in the off-season underline the perception that Anaheim isn't in a hurry to be good again. Even the Ducks' most loyal fans won't be content forever with new sweaters.

THE BRASS

Owner Henry Samueli's wealth and vision have kept Anaheim thriving off the ice during the team's playoff drought. The Ducks have a world-class new training facility, and they're developing the land around Honda Center into an entertainment complex.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Cutter Gauthier	1. Leo Carlsson	1. Troy Terry
2. Ryan Strome	2. Trevor Zegras	2. Frank Vatrano
3. Robby Fabbri	3. Mason McTavish	3. Alex Killorn
4. Ross Johnston	4. Isac Lundestrom	4. Brett Leason
5. Brock McGinn	5. Jansen Harkins	5. Sam Colangelo

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Cam Fowler	6. Jackson LaCombe	1. John Gibson
2. Radko Gudas	7. Olen Zellweger	2. Lukas Dostal
3. Brian Dumoulin	8. Tristan Luneau	3. Calle Clang
4. Pavel Mintyukov	9. Tyson Hinds	
5. Urho Vaakanainen	10. Drew Helleson	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jakob Silfverberg, RW; Max Jones, LW; Gustav Lindstrom, D

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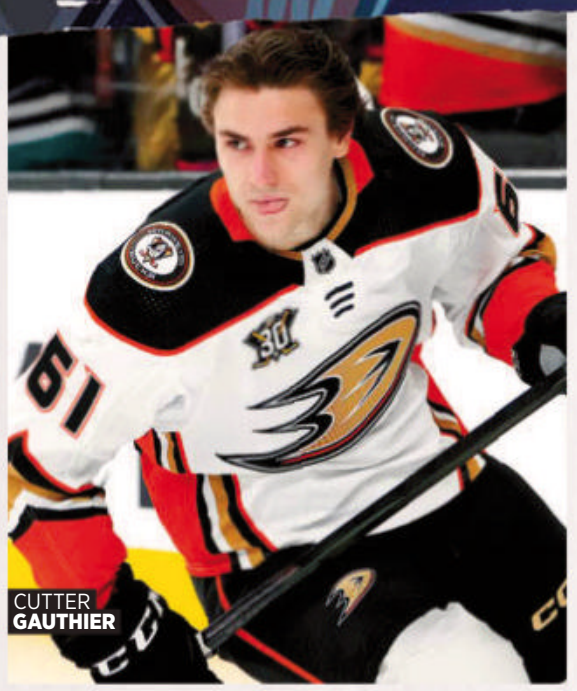

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Cutter Gauthier
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
NCAA standout is NHL-ready. His size and shot can turn him into top-tier big-league triggerman.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Beckett Sennecke
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Oshawa (OHL)
Draft-day riser is a creative distributor and only just beginning to fill out his 6-foot-2 frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Olen Zellweger
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 San Diego (AHL)
Quarter-campaign in NHL from offense-minded rearguard proved he's ready for full-time duty.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Tristan Luneau
Pos 20 **Age** D
2023-24 San Diego (AHL)
Played regular minutes with Ducks before illness scuppered his season. Smart, steady defender.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Stian Solberg
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Valerenga (Nor.)
Stout, minute-munching blueliner loves to get physical. He's a future shutdown-style defenseman.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Nathan Gaucher
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 San Diego (AHL)
A lunchpail performer who will win hearts with shutdown and PK duties, plus a side of offense.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Lucas Pettersson
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Modo Jr. (Swe.)
Increased production as second-year junior, but a sound defensive game is his most admirable trait.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Maxim Masse
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
Concerns about skating, but winner of QMJHL's top prospect award has stellar all-around game.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Tyson Hinds
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 San Diego (AHL)
Confidence grew throughout first pro season. Good mobility. He's a raw but malleable talent.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. Noah Warren
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Victoriaville (QMJHL)
Stands 6-foot-4 but skates like he's 5-foot-11. Add to that his wingspan, and he's a unicorn 'D.'
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80		
	63 Zegras	
60	60 McTavish	
	55 Terry	
	50 Gauthier	
	50 Killorn	
	45 Vatrano	
	45 Carlsson	
		Zellweger 44
	41 Strome	
40		
		Mintyukov 37
	31 Fabbri	
		Fowler 30
20	20 Lundestrom	LaCombe 20
	20 Colangelo	
		Luneau 17
	16 Leason	Gudas 17
	15 McGinn	Dumoulin 17
		Vaakanainen 8
	5 Johnston	
0		

SCHEDULE

Sat, Oct 12	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 18	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sun, Oct 20	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs San Jose	9:45 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 8	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 10	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Nov 22	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Los Angeles	3:30 PM
Sun, Dec 1	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Wed, Dec 4	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 9	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 11	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 18	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	@ Utah	5:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs Montreal	4:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Detroit	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 5	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 7	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 12	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	@ St. Louis	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 26	vs Boston	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs Toronto	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Calgary	9:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Vancouver	4:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	vs Edmonton	10:30 PM
Wed, Apr 9	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM

STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

ANAHEIM DUCKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Vyacheslav Buteyets	22	6-4	185	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	178th overall (2022)	Chelyabinsk (Rus.2)	35	16-18-0	2.57	.913
Calle Clang	22	6-2	194	Left	Olofstrom, Swe.	Trade: Pit 3/21/22	San Diego (AHL)	32	10-16-4	3.21	.897
Damian Clara	19	6-6	214	Left	Brunico, Ita.	60th overall (2023)	Brynas (Swe.2)	2.23	25-8-0	2.23	.913
Lukas Dostal	24	6-2	188	Left	Brno, Cze.	85th overall (2018)	Anaheim	44	14-23-3	3.33	.902
John Gibson	31	6-2	210	Left	Pittsburgh, Pa.	39th overall (2011)	Anaheim	46	13-27-2	3.54	.888
Tomas Suchanek	21	6-1	180	Left	Prerov, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/21/24	San Diego (AHL)	29	14-10-5	.910	2.92

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Rodwin Dionicio	20	6-2	207	Left	Newark, N.J.	129th overall (2023)	Windsor/Saginaw (OHL)	60	25	48	73	108
Brian Dumoulin	33	6-4	207	Left	Biddeford, Maine	Trade: Sea 7/2/24	Seattle	80	6	10	16	20
Cam Fowler	32	6-2	215	Left	Windsor, Ont.	12th overall (2010)	Anaheim	81	5	34	39	24
William Francis	23	6-5	207	Right	St. Paul, Minn.	163rd overall (2019)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	1	0	0	0	0
Radko Gudas	34	6-0	208	Right	Prague, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Anaheim	66	6	12	18	128
Drew Helleson	23	6-3	205	Right	Farmington, Minn.	Trade: Col 3/14/22	San Diego (AHL)	59	4	14	18	44
Tyson Hinds	21	6-3	188	Left	Gatineau, Que.	76th overall (2021)	San Diego (AHL)	71	2	8	10	42
Jackson LaCombe	23	6-2	205	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	39th overall (2019)	Anaheim	71	2	15	17	24
Tristan Luneau	20	6-1	195	Right	Victoriaville, Que.	53rd overall (2022)	Anaheim	7	1	2	3	4
Pavel Mintyukov	20	6-1	195	Left	Moscow, Rus.	10th overall (2022)	Anaheim	63	4	24	28	24
Ian Moore	22	6-2	171	Right	Salt Lake City, Utah	67th overall (2020)	Harvard (ECAC)	21	3	5	8	10
Vojtech Port	19	6-2	168	Right	Jihlava, Cze.	161st overall (2023)	Edmonton/Moose Jaw (WHL)	42	4	11	15	17
Tarin Smith	18	6-1	175	Left	Porcupine Plain, Sask.	79th overall (2024)	Everett (WHL)	67	8	36	44	66
Konnor Smith	19	6-6	209	Left	Windsor, Ont.	97th overall (2023)	Peterborough/Owen Sound (OHL)	62	9	8	17	74
Stian Solberg	18	6-2	194	Left	Oslo, Nor.	23rd overall (2024)	Valerenga (Nor.)	42	5	10	15	47
Darels Uljanskis	18	6-2	194	Left	Riga, Lat.	214th overall (2024)	AIK Jr. (Swe.)	45	11	18	29	20
Urho Vaakanainen	25	6-2	200	Left	Joensuu, Fin.	Trade: Bos 3/19/22	Anaheim	68	1	13	14	26
Noah Warren	20	6-4	216	Right	Montreal, Que.	42nd overall (2022)	Victoriaville (QMJHL)	50	6	7	13	35
Olen Zellweger	21	5-9	182	Left	Calgary, Alta.	34th overall (2021)	San Diego (AHL)	44	12	25	37	16

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alexandre Blais	18	5-10	152	Left	Longueuil, Que.	100th overall (2024)	Rimouski (QMJHL)	68	24	60	84	40
Leo Carlsson	19	6-3	194	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	2nd overall (2023)	Anaheim	55	12	17	29	16
Robby Fabbri	28	6-1	185	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Det 7/3/24	Detroit	68	18	14	32	32
Nathan Gaucher	20	6-3	207	Right	Chambly, Que.	22nd overall (2022)	San Diego (AHL)	72	10	15	25	68
Jansen Harkins	27	6-2	197	Left	Cleveland, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Pittsburgh	45	0	4	4	21
Kyle Kukkonen	21	5-10	172	Right	Maple Grove, Minn.	162nd overall (2021)	Michigan Tech (CCHA)	27	1	11	12	18
Josh Lopina	23	6-2	199	Right	Chicago, Ill.	98th overall (2021)	San Diego (AHL)	69	14	9	23	25
Isac Lundestrom	24	6-0	193	Left	Gallivare, Swe.	23rd overall (2018)	Anaheim	46	5	6	11	2
Mason McTavish	21	6-0	213	Left	Zurich, Sui.	3rd overall (2021)	Anaheim	64	19	23	42	86
Jan Mysak	22	5-11	190	Left	Litvinov, Cze.	Trade: Mtl 3/7/24	Laval/San Diego (AHL)	62	14	7	21	24
Nikita Nesterenko	23	6-2	183	Left	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Trade: Min 3/3/23	San Diego (AHL)	70	16	21	37	38
Lucas Pettersson	18	5-11	168	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	35th overall (2024)	Modo Jr. (Swe.)	44	27	30	57	40
Ethan Procyszyn	18	6-2	187	Right	Wasaga Beach, Ont.	68th overall (2024)	North Bay (OHL)	62	15	21	36	67
Ryan Strome	31	6-1	191	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Anaheim	79	11	30	41	86
Carey Terrance	19	6-1	175	Left	Akwesasne, N.Y.	59th overall (2023)	Erie (OHL)	56	29	23	52	25
Trevor Zegras	23	6-0	185	Left	Bedford, N.Y.	9th overall (2019)	Anaheim	31	6	9	15	30

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Artyom Galimov	25	6-0	176	Left	Samara, Rus.	129th overall (2020)	Kazan (KHL)	51	5	6	11	10
Cutter Gauthier	20	6-2	189	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: Phi 1/8/24	Boston College (HE)	41	38	27	65	18
Ross Johnston	30	6-5	234	Left	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Waivers: NYI 10/10/23	Anaheim	68	1	3	4	117
Alex Killorn	35	6-1	194	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Anaheim	63	18	18	36	54
Brock McGinn	30	6-0	187	Left	Fergus, Ont.	Trade: Pit 3/3/23	Anaheim	24	1	2	3	4
Nico Myatovic	19	6-2	182	Left	Prince George, B.C.	33rd overall (2023)	Seattle (WHL)	34	9	21	30	20
Pavol Regenda	24	6-4	211	Left	Michalovce, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 6/1/22	San Diego (AHL)	54	19	15	34	57

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Austin Burnevik	19	6-4	195	Left	Ham Lake, Minn.	182nd overall (2024)	Madison (USHL)	61	40	31	71	24
Michael Callow	20	6-4	181	Right	Boston, Mass.	154th overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	32	3	12	15	0
Judd Caulfield	23	6-3	207	Right	Grand Forks, N.D.	Trade: Pit 3/31/23	San Diego (AHL)	61	10	16	26	20
Sam Colangelo	22	6-2	205	Right	Stoneham, Mass.	36th overall (2020)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	38	24	19	43	23
Brett Leason	25	6-5	218	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Waivers: Ana 10/10/22	Anaheim	68	11	11	22	14
Maxim Masse	18	6-2	186	Right	Rimouski, Que.	66th overall (2024)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	67	36	39	75	26
Carson Meyer	27	5-11	184	Right	Powell, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Cleveland (AHL)	55	22	15	37	65
Sasha Pastujov	21	6-0	187	Left	Bradenton, Fla.	66th overall (2021)	San Diego (AHL)	46	10	13	23	14
Jack Perbix	24	6-1	180	Right	Elk River, Minn.	116th overall (2018)	Northern Michigan (CCHA)	31	1	3	4	35
Coulson Pitre	19	6-1	172	Right	Newmarket, Ont.	65th overall (2023)	Flint (OHL)	55	27	28	55	41
Beckett Sennecke	18	6-2	177	Right	Toronto, Ont.	3rd overall (2024)	Oshawa (OHL)	63	27	41	68	67
Yegor Sidorov	20	6-0	182	Left	Vitebsk, Blr.	85th overall (2023)	Saskatoon (WHL)	66	50	38	88	66
Troy Terry	27	6-0	185	Right	Denver, Colo.	148th overall (2015)	Anaheim	76	20	34	54	24
Frank Vatrano	30	5-11	197	Left	East Longmeadow, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Anaheim	82	37	23	60	85
Jaxsen Wiebe	22	6-1	209	Right	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/23	San Diego (AHL)	24	4	1	5	24

BOSTON BRUINS

DAVID PASTRNAK

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BY MICK COLAGEO

THE SEVEN-GAME OUSTER OF Toronto signified that there's a future in Boston after Patrice Bergeron and David Krejci, but with Pavel Zacha and Matthew Poitras exhibiting growing pains at center, GM Don Sweeney targeted UFA Elias Lindholm. He also signed Nikita Zadorov, fortifying the left side of the defense.

The Bruins think they're close, especially after backfilling with several cap-friendly contracts, contending in the Presidents' Trophy race and taking Florida to six games. David Pastrnak and Charlie McAvoy are embracing leadership roles, strengthening Brad Marchand's captaincy. Jeremy Swayman performed as 2022-23 Vezina Trophy winner Linus Ullmark's regular-season equal and emerged as Boston's playoff starter and future of the franchise. In June, Ullmark was traded to Ottawa, getting Boston back into the first round of the draft, where they selected rangy center Dean Letourneau at 25th overall.

>OFFENSE

Lindholm fills a hole as a veteran center with an enviable three-zone game. As the glue between Pastrnak and Zacha, his point production stands to increase. But who will skate on the right side with Marchand and Charlie Coyle? Morgan Geekie supplanted Zacha as the second-line center in the playoffs, but expect auditions after Jake DeBrusk's departure. Florida coach Paul Maurice said what he feared most about the Bruins was their four-man attack, and Zadorov will presumably enable McAvoy to further embrace his offense. Arrivals Mark Kastelic (via the Ullmark trade) and Max Jones (UFA signing) will help Boston correct a lack of physicality on the forecheck.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
47-20-15 (.665)

OVERTIME
7-12

SHOOTOUT
4-3

OVERALL
7th

OFFENSE
3.21 GPG (14th)

DEFENSE
2.70 GAA (5th)

POWER PLAY
22.2% (14th)

PENALTY KILL
82.5% (7th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.55 (18th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.55 (16th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
D. Pastrnak (19:56)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. McAvoy (24:51)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jim Montgomery

GM
Don Sweeney

ARENA
TD Garden

CAPACITY
17,850

AHL AFFILIATE
Providence Bruins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Maine Mariners

PLAYOFF RECORD
23-25 (since 2020)

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

DEFENSE

Sweeney deferred to coach Jim Montgomery but let it slip that Zadorov is meant to complement McAvoy, who was easily the Bruins' most physical player last season. Paired with Zadorov, McAvoy will push the puck more confidently. If Boston's pro scouts are right, a more refined Zadorov will smartly use his 6-foot-6, 248-pound frame without piling up penalty minutes. At 29, he arrives at the same age as did Zdeno Chara, but out of respect, Zadorov insists no one calls him 'Big Z' in Boston. With 6-foot-6 Brandon Carlo, 6-foot-5 Mason Lohrei, 6-foot-4 Hampus Lindholm, 6-foot-3 Andrew Peeke and 6-foot-1 McAvoy, the Bruins' blueline averages 6-foot-4 and 219 pounds. Huge.

GOALTENDING

The Ullmark trade ends the recent goalie-tandem era in Boston, setting up Swayman for a Tuukka Rask-like workload. His support will come from journeyman Joonas Korpisalo, whose numbers suffered in Ottawa but were solid in Los Angeles and, at times, in Columbus. Bob Essensa is among the elite goalie whisperers, and rejuvenating Korpisalo is his next quest. If anything goes sideways, the Bruins believe they have an excellent late-blooming prospect in Brandon Bussi.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sweeney anticipates Lindholm taking over the bumper position on a power play that was a middle-of-the-pack 21.2 percent in the playoffs. Teeing up Pastrnak for his Ovechkin-style one-timer is tiresome to watch when it isn't working. Lohrei's ability to improvise from the left point is the best Boston has seen since Torey Krug. On a penalty kill that clicked at 85.7 percent in the playoffs, Zadorov's reach will mitigate the loss of UFA Derek Forbort. Kastelic and Johnny Beecher are strong on defensive draws, and Marchand, Zacha and Coyle have the wheels to stress opposing power plays.

INTANGIBLES

At 36, Marchand is an outlier on a young team. The Bruins' win-now, win-always philosophy contradicts the standard teardown tactics of rebuilding, and until the Bruins are back in a conference final, there will be detractors. But Zadorov, Lindholm and Jones signed because peers who had played in Boston told them that what they'd heard about the experience is true: the Bruins are like a family, playing for one another and winning and losing together.

CUP ODDS

28/1

ROOKIES

Fabian Lysell has yet to make his NHL debut, but his second AHL season was trending up until he sustained a shoulder injury. Lysell and Georgii Merkulov (four NHL games) have a lot to prove.

X-FACTOR

The popular question is secondary scoring, but no perennial 50-win team has leaned as heavily on its goaltending as the Bruins during the goalie-hug era. Swayman boldly checks all the boxes, but a career contract and 50-plus starts constitute uncharted territory. If he gets injured, can Korpisalo step up?

THE BRASS

Sweeney keeps Boston competitive by identifying guys like Coyle, Zacha and Geekie and providing an environment where previously dormant players realize their potential. This skill mitigates a lack of draft capital, but the B's need more players whose games are suited for the playoffs.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

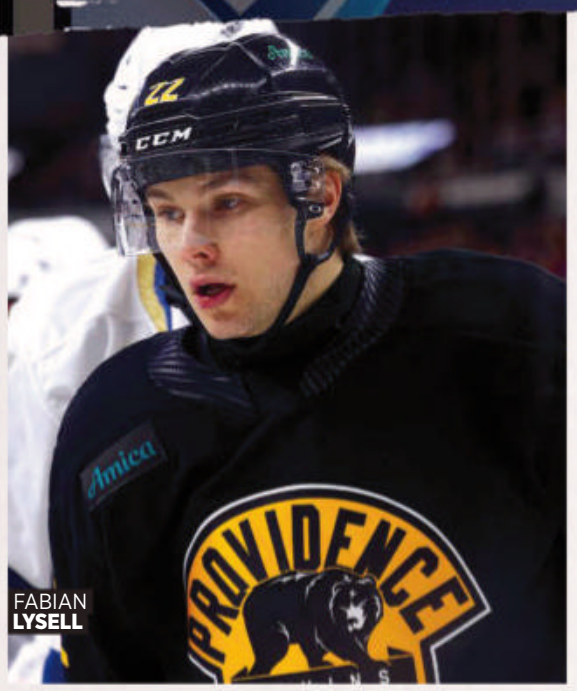
LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Brad Marchand	1. Elias Lindholm	1. David Pastrnak
2. Pavel Zacha	2. Charlie Coyle	2. Morgan Geekie
3. Trent Frederic	3. Matthew Poitras	3. Justin Brazeau
4. Johnny Beecher	4. Mark Kastelic	4. Max Jones
5. Georgii Merkulov	5. Riley Duran	5. Fabian Lysell

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Charlie McAvoy	6. Andrew Peeke	1. Jeremy Swayman
2. Hampus Lindholm	7. Parker Wotherspoon	2. Joonas Korpisalo
3. Nikita Zadorov	8. Ian Mitchell	3. Brandon Bussi
4. Brandon Carlo	9. Jordan Oesterle	
5. Mason Lohrei	10. Alec Regula	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs L. Ullmark, G; J. DeBrusk, LW; M. Grzelcyk, D; D. Forbort, D; D. Heinen, LW; J. Boqvist, C; K. Shattenkirk, D; J. van Riemsdyk, LW; J. Lauko, C; O. Steen, C; P. Maroon, LW

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Fabian Lysell
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Providence (AHL)
Fluid skater and pass-first winger has playmaking gift that can translate to an NHL power play.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Dean Letourneau
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 St. Andrew's (CAHS)
Dominant at 6-foot-7 and 200-plus pounds. A nightmare to defend in tight or at full flight.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Georgii Merkulov
Pos C **Age** 23
2023-24 Providence (AHL)
Offensive smarts make up for a lack of defensive acumen. An AHL-NHL tweener right now.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Brandon Bussi
Pos G **Age** 26
2023-24 Providence (AHL)
Baby Bruins' No. 1 guided them to playoffs. Competes hard and is following steady trajectory.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Elliott Groenewold
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Cedar Rapids (USHL)
Nuts-and-bolts, defense-first blueliner. Reads plays well, then jumps in to break up attack.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Trevor Kuntar
Pos C **Age** 23
2023-24 Providence (AHL)
Versatile forward fared well in first pro season. Profiles as bottom-six, smashmouth winger.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Brett Harrison
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Providence (AHL)
Good shot and enough skill to be consistent scoring threat. Now, it's about adding strength.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Riley Duran
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Providence (HE)
Doesn't have high-end skill but will play any role. Always up for going into the hard areas.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Andre Gasseau
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
Production stagnated, but he's found a fit as role player. Skating needs work, but the IQ is there.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Christopher Pelosi
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Sioux Falls (USHL)
Playmaker had excellent USHL numbers, but move to Quinnipiac will help him round out his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	110 Pastrnak	
80		
	70 E. Lindholm	
	63 Marchand	
60		
	56 Zacha	
		McAvoy 49
	48 Coyle	
40	41 Frederic	
	38 Poitras	
	35 Geekie	
		H. Lindholm 32
	23 Beecher	
	22 Lysell	
20	19 Lettieri	Zadorov 19
	18 Jones	Lohrei 18
		Carlo 17
	15 Kastelic	
	14 Brazeau	Peeke 13
		Wotherspoon 5
0		

SCHEDULE

Tue, Oct 8	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 10	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Los Angeles	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	vs Florida	1:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Nashville	8:30 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs Seattle	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs St. Louis	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 26	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Sun, Dec 1	vs Montreal	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 4	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Washington	12:30 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	vs NY Islanders	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Ottawa	3:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs San Jose	1:00 PM
Wed, Jan 22	@ New Jersey	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Colorado	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs NY Rangers	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 5	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Vegas	3:30 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	@ Minnesota	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Mar 23	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 26	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Detroit	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ Buffalo	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM

TESSA MCANDREWS/PROVIDENCE BRUINS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

BOSTON BRUINS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP	
Brandon Bussi	26	6-4	218	Right	Sound Beach, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 3/30/22	Providence (AHL)	41	23-10-5	2.67	.913	
Michael DiPietro	25	6-1	207	Left	Windsor, Ont.	Trade: Van 10/27/22	Providence (AHL)	30	18-9-2	2.51	.918	
Joonas Korpisalo	30	6-3	189	Left	Pori, Fin.	Trade: Ott 6/24/24	Ottawa	55	21-26-4	3.27	.890	
Philip Svedeback	22	6-3	191	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	117th overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	35	18-13-4	2.32	.900	
Jeremy Swayman	25	6-3	195	Left	Anchorage, Alaska	111th overall (2017)	Boston	44	25-10-8	2.53	.916	
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Drew Bavaro	24	6-3	200	Right	Bradenton, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 3/12/24	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	35	10	10	20	38
Frederic Brunet	21	6-3	196	Left	Gatineau, Que.	132nd overall (2022)	Providence (AHL)	48	2	10	12	21
Roman Bychkov	23	5-11	161	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	154th overall (2019)	Perm (Rus.2)	25	1	5	6	16
Michael Callahan	25	6-2	199	Left	Franklin, Mass.	Trade: Ari 2/22/22	Providence (AHL)	70	4	13	17	26
Brandon Carlo	27	6-5	217	Right	Colorado Springs, Colo.	37th overall (2015)	Boston	76	4	10	14	42
Jackson Edward	20	6-2	193	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	200th overall (2022)	London (OHL)	59	7	23	30	92
Ty Gallagher	21	6-0	188	Right	Clarkston, Mich.	217th overall (2021)	Boston University (HE)	37	0	5	5	14
Elliott Groenewold	18	6-2	200	Left	Springfield, Vt.	110th overall (2024)	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	57	5	11	16	77
Loke Johansson	18	6-3	214	Left	Huddinge, Swe.	186th overall (2024)	AIK Jr. (Swe.)	33	5	8	13	59
Kristian Kostadinski	19	6-5	213	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	220th overall (2023)	Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)	46	3	15	18	63
Mason Langenbrunner	22	6-2	166	Right	Dallas, Texas	151st overall (2020)	Harvard (ECAC)	32	0	5	5	8
Hampus Lindholm	30	6-4	224	Left	Helsingborg, Swe.	Trade: Ana 3/19/22	Boston	73	3	23	26	63
Mason Lohrei	23	6-5	211	Left	Baton Rouge, La.	58th overall (2020)	Boston	41	4	9	13	18
Ryan Mast	21	6-5	221	Right	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	181st overall (2021)	Maine (ECHL)	47	5	11	16	12
Charlie McAvoy	26	6-1	209	Right	Long Beach, N.Y.	14th overall (2016)	Boston	74	12	35	47	86
Ian Mitchell	25	6-0	192	Right	St. Albert, Alta.	Trade: Chi 6/26/23	Providence (AHL)	40	5	18	23	25
Jonathan Myrenberg	21	6-2	185	Right	Taby, Swe.	Trade: Van 10/27/22	Linkoping (Swe.)	50	2	9	11	8
Jordan Oesterle	32	6-0	187	Left	Dearborn Heights, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary (AHL)	30	2	17	19	4
Andrew Peeke	26	6-3	214	Right	Parkland, Fla.	Trade: Clb 3/8/24	Columbus/Boston	38	1	9	10	14
Alec Regula	24	6-4	211	Right	West Bloomfield, Mich.	Trade: Chi 6/26/23	Providence (AHL)	55	4	22	26	41
Billy Sweezey	28	6-1	206	Right	Hanson, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	57	1	3	4	73
Parker Wotherspoon	27	6-1	195	Left	Surrey, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Boston	41	0	8	8	31
Nikita Zadorov	29	6-6	248	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary/Vancouver	75	6	14	20	125
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Johnny Beecher	23	6-3	216	Left	Elmira, N.Y.	30th overall (2019)	Boston	52	7	3	10	24
Patrick Brown	32	6-1	218	Right	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Providence (AHL)	42	11	21	32	6
Charlie Coyle	32	6-3	218	Right	East Weymouth, Mass.	Trade: Min 2/20/19	Boston	82	25	35	60	38
Riley Duran	22	6-1	174	Right	Boston, Mass.	182nd overall (2020)	Providence (HE)	35	9	7	16	18
John Farinacci	23	5-11	197	Right	Red Bank, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 8/16/23	Providence (AHL)	71	12	26	38	16
Trent Frederic	26	6-3	220	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	29th overall (2016)	Boston	82	18	22	40	69
Andre Gasseau	21	6-4	205	Left	Garden Grove, Calif.	213th overall (2021)	Boston College (HE)	40	12	17	29	27
Morgan Geekie	26	6-3	202	Right	Strathclair, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Boston	76	17	22	39	28
Beckett Hendrickson	19	6-2	174	Left	Minnetonka, Minn.	124th overall (2023)	Sioux Falls/Dubuque (USHL)	59	27	37	64	36
Mark Kastelic	25	6-4	226	Right	Phoenix, Ariz.	Trade: Ott 6/24/24	Ottawa	63	5	5	10	63
Trevor Kuntar	23	6-0	205	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	89th overall (2020)	Providence (AHL)	70	10	10	20	113
Dean Letourneau	18	6-7	210	Right	Arnprior, Ont.	25th overall (2024)	St. Andrew's (CAHS)	56	61	66	127	74
Vinni Lettieri	29	5-10	184	Right	Excelsior, Minn.	Trade: Min 6/29/24	Minnesota	46	5	4	9	24
Elias Lindholm	29	6-1	202	Right	Boden, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary/Vancouver	75	15	29	44	25
Dans Locmelis	20	6-0	170	Left	Jelgava, Lat.	119th overall (2022)	UMass (HE)	30	7	7	14	4
Marc McLaughlin	25	6-0	199	Right	North Billerica, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 3/15/22	Providence (AHL)	68	8	6	14	24
Georgii Merkulov	23	5-11	176	Left	Ryazan, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 4/9/22	Providence (AHL)	67	30	35	65	20
Jonathan Morello	18	6-1	178	Left	Toronto, Ont.	154th overall (2024)	St. Michael's (OJHL)	50	25	32	57	22
Jaxon Nelson	24	6-4	215	Right	Magnolia, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/2/24	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	19	12	31	6
Christopher Pelosi	19	6-1	181	Left	Sewell, N.J.	92nd overall (2023)	Sioux Falls (USHL)	56	21	34	55	32
Matthew Poitras	20	5-11	180	Right	Ajax, Ont.	54th overall (2022)	Boston	33	5	10	15	6
Cole Spicer	20	5-10	175	Left	Grand Forks, N.D.	117th overall (2022)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	17	5	4	9	8
Ryan Walsh	21	6-0	180	Right	Rochester, N.Y.	188th overall (2023)	Cornell (ECAC)	35	12	10	22	21
Pavel Zacha	27	6-4	207	Left	Brno, Cze.	Trade: NJ 7/13/22	Boston	78	21	38	59	18
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Brett Harrison	21	6-2	189	Left	London, Ont.	85th overall (2021)	Providence (AHL)	47	5	9	14	8
Oskar Jellvik	21	5-11	175	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	149th overall (2021)	Boston College (HE)	41	13	29	42	16
Max Jones	26	6-3	216	Left	Rochester, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Anaheim	52	5	10	15	33
Cole Koepke	26	6-1	203	Left	Two Harbors, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Syracuse (AHL)	53	20	19	39	14
Brad Marchand	36	5-9	176	Left	Halifax, N.S.	71st overall (2006)	Boston	82	29	38	67	78
Quinn Olson	23	5-11	170	Left	Calgary, Alta.	92nd overall (2019)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	37	4	17	21	10
Jake Schmaltz	23	6-1	167	Left	McFarland, Wis.	192nd overall (2019)	North Dakota (NCHC)	36	1	10	11	13
Riley Tufte	26	6-6	230	Left	Coon Rapids, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Colorado (AHL)	67	23	22	45	91
Jeffrey Viel	27	6-2	205	Left	Rimouski, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Manitoba (AHL)	69	17	23	40	142
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Justin Brazeau	26	6-5	220	Right	New Liskeard, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 2/18/24	Providence (AHL)	49	18	19	37	14
Fabian Lysell	21	5-11	181	Right	Gothenburg, Swe.	21st overall (2021)	Providence (AHL)	56	15	35	50	37
Casper Nassen	20	6-4	205	Right	Norrtalje, Swe.	214th overall (2023)	Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)	41	16	15	31	8
David Pastrnak	28	6-0	196	Right	Havirov, Cze.	25th overall (2014)	Boston	82	47	63	110	47

BUFFALO SABRES

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BY BILL HOPPE

FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF growth, the Sabres' regression last season cost coach Don Granato his job. Enter Lindy Ruff, who has returned to help the team he previously coached for 15 seasons end its league-worst 13-year playoff drought.

Ruff nostalgia runs deep in Buffalo. Having led the Sabres to the 1999 Stanley Cup final, four Eastern Conference finals and their last playoff berth, he's revered. The Sabres, who must sell tickets to a passionate fan base beaten down by losing, have featured Ruff on billboards. But the Sabres hired Ruff for more than marketing purposes. After falling short of expectations last season, GM Kevyn Adams cited a lack of accountability, something he believes the 64-year-old bench boss can fix.

The Sabres are under enormous pressure to end their embarrassing streak of missing the playoffs. Adams spent the off-season making moves to win right now.

OFFENSE

With the exception of JJ Peterka, all of the Sabres' top scorers endured down years last season. Tage Thompson, Jeff Skinner (who was bought out in June), Rasmus Dahlin, Alex Tuch, Dylan Cozens and Victor Olofsson combined for 192 goals and 436 points in 2022-23, when Buffalo's offense ranked third overall. Those six players compiled just 120 goals and 282 points last season, as the Sabres' offense dropped to 23rd. The power play was the main culprit. It was dreadful, costing them games while dropping from ninth in 2022-23 (23.4 percent) to 29th last year (16.6 percent). Adams added grit to the bottom six during the summer to make the Sabres tougher to play against.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
39-37-6 (.512)

OVERTIME
4-5

SHOOTOUT
2-1

OVERALL
22nd

OFFENSE
2.98 GPG (23rd)

DEFENSE
2.96 GAA (11th)

POWER PLAY
16.6% (29th)

PENALTY KILL
79.8% (13th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.48 (23rd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.64 (24th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Tuch (19:30)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Dahlin (25:25)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Lindy Ruff

GM
Kevyn Adams

ARENA
KeyBank Center

CAPACITY
19,070

AHL AFFILIATE
Rochester Americans

ECHL AFFILIATE
Jacksonville Icemen

PLAYOFF RECORD
0-0 (since 2020)

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

TAGE THOMPSON

DEFENSE

The Sabres boast a deep and talented defense corps, with Dahlin, Owen Power and Mattias Samuelsson all capable of playing mega minutes. But that trio struggled last season, failing to make the same impact they did in 2022-23. Dahlin never reached his Norris-caliber potential but still tied for the team lead in scoring. Samuelsson, who battled injuries and played just 41 games, often showcased poor decision-making. Ditto for Power. Still, they all possess tremendous upside. Buffalo augmented its blueline by acquiring Bowen Byram, the fourth-overall pick in 2019, before the trade deadline. With Dahlin, Power, Samuelsson, Byram and Henri Jokiharju – a bright spot last season – the top defensemen are all 25 or younger.

GOALTENDING

After Devon Levi took over Buffalo's net, Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen became an afterthought, sitting out 13 straight games from late 2022-23 into early last season. But Luukkonen, once tabbed as the Sabres' goalie of the future, seized the opportunity when Levi and Eric Comrie sustained injuries, emerging as one of the NHL's best goalies in the second half of last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

New assistant coach Seth Appert has taken over the power-play responsibilities from assistant Matt Ellis, who has been given different duties. With Dahlin quarterbacking and Thompson unleashing wicked one-timers from the circle, the Sabres have two premier talents on their top unit. But Dahlin's aggression sometimes leads to mistakes. And opponents have worked to nullify Thompson, who registered 11 fewer power-play goals last season. As a team, Buffalo scored 26 fewer goals on the man advantage. The penalty kill, led by Luukkonen's timely saves, improved from 28th to 13th.

INTANGIBLES

The Sabres have grown into a tight-knit group. Former captain Kyle Okposo wanted every player to be his own man, and players proudly point out the team has no cliques. With Okposo gone, Dahlin, an alternate captain, will likely earn the 'C.' The 24-year-old is a voracious worker and a passionate voice. He's often out on the ice long before practice begins. He hates losing, and it's evident.

CUP ODDS

42/1

ROOKIES

The Sabres could start the season with zero rookies. Jiri Kulich, who has 51 goals in 119 games with Rochester over the past two seasons, might return to the AHL with Isak Rosen, another first-rounder entering his third North American pro year. The Sabres also have 2024 No. 14 overall pick Konsta Helenius, who stood out in the Liiga as a 17-year-old center.

X-FACTOR

Adams methodically rebuilt the Sabres, refusing to take any shortcuts. Instead of quick fixes, he tried to set the team up for consistent success. But the Sabres have matured and entered a new phase. There are playoff expectations, and if the team falls short, there could be another regime change.

THE BRASS

Coaches on a second stint with a team usually don't enjoy their previous success. Adams believes that Ruff, who has won in different eras utilizing different styles, can accomplish what the six coaches who followed his first stint couldn't and push the Sabres into the playoffs.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. JJ Peterka	1. Tage Thompson	1. Alex Tuch
2. Jason Zucker	2. Dylan Cozens	2. Jack Quinn
3. Zach Benson	3. Ryan McLeod	3. Jordan Greenway
4. Beck Malenstyn	4. Sam Lafferty	4. Nicolas Aube-Kubel
5. Peyton Krebs	5. Jiri Kulich	5. Isak Rosen

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Rasmus Dahlin	6. Connor Clifton	1. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen
2. Mattias Samuelsson	7. Jacob Bryson	2. Devon Levi
3. Owen Power	8. Dennis Gilbert	3. James Reimer
4. Bowen Byram	9. Ryan Johnson	
5. Henri Jokiharju	10. Kale Clague	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jeff Skinner, LW; Zemgus Girgensons, LW; Victor Olofsson, RW; Tyson Jost, C; Eric Robinson, LW

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jiri Kulich
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Rochester (AHL)
On the cusp of regular NHL role thanks to lethal shot and a dash of minor-league seasoning.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Konsta Helenius
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Jukurit (Fin.)
Small in stature, big in skill and compete. He'll be ready once physical attributes catch up.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Noah Ostlund
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Vaxjo (Swe.)
Smooth-skating and shifty playmaker excelled in first SHL season. Pencilled in for AHL duty.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

4. Isak Rosen
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Rochester (AHL)
Double-digit scoring jump in sophomore AHL season. Cerebral skater is useful at all strengths.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Adam Kleber
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Lincoln (USHL)
No flash to his game, but he has combination of size, strength and some puck-moving ability.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

6. Anton Wahlberg
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Malmo (Swe.)
New-school power forward has size, speed and dexterity. He'll go through defenders if needed.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Vsevolod Komarov
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Drummondville (QMJHL)
Continues to develop puck-moving ability and post impressive numbers. Diamond in the rough.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

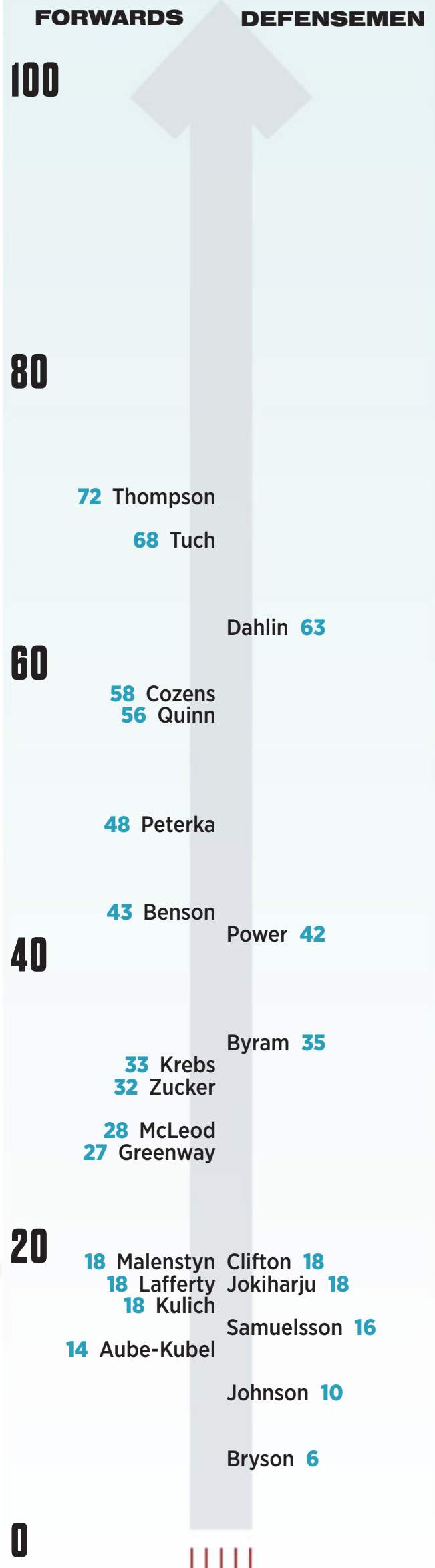
8. Maxim Strbak
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Jack-of-all-trades has ability to throw a hit at one end and attempt skill move at the other.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

9. Brodie Ziemer
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
Pass-and-move playmaker captained Team USA at U-18 worlds. Skating needs to be refined.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Prokhor Poltapov
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 CSKA Moscow (KHL)
Modest stats, but power forward shows willingness to embrace physicality to create offense.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS



SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 4	vs New Jersey*	1:00 PM
Sat, Oct 5	@ New Jersey*	10:00 AM
Thu, Oct 10	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Detroit	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Calgary	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	vs Montreal	12:30 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Nov 22	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ San Jose	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Vancouver	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Utah	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 9	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 11	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	@ Toronto	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 27	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ St. Louis	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Seattle	4:00 PM
Wed, Jan 15	vs Carolina	6:00 PM
Fri, Jan 17	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs New Jersey	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs NY Rangers	5:30 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 10	vs Edmonton	6:30 PM
Wed, Mar 12	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Vegas	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 17	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Washington	3:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Boston	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM

** Global Series in Czechia*

MICHELINE VELUVOLU/ROCHESTER AMERICANS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

BUFFALO SABRES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Ryerson Leenders	18	6-1	165	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	219th overall (2024)	Mississauga (OHL)	46	24-17-4	3.12	.909
Topias Leinonen	20	6-4	214	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	41st overall (2022)	JYP (Fin.)	6	0-4-1	4.14	.844
Devon Levi	22	6-0	192	Left	Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.	Trade: Fla 7/24/21	Rochester (AHL)	26	16-6-4	2.42	.927
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	25	6-5	217	Left	Espoo, Fin.	54th overall (2017)	Buffalo	54	27-22-4	2.57	.910
Scott Ratzlaff	19	6-1	175	Left	Irma, Alta.	141st overall (2023)	Seattle (WHL)	52	21-26-2	3.33	.905
James Reimer	36	6-2	200	Left	Morweena, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Detroit	25	11-8-2	3.11	.904
Felix Sandstrom	27	6-2	211	Left	Gavle, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	24	13-7-3	3.15	.884

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Simon-Pier Brunet	18	6-2	196	Right	Gatineau, Que.	123rd overall (2024)	Drummondville (QMJHL)	52	4	10	14	56
Jacob Bryson	26	5-9	174	Left	London, Ont.	99th overall (2017)	Buffalo	36	1	7	8	8
Bowen Byram	23	6-1	190	Left	Cranbrook, B.C.	Trade: Col 3/6/24	Colorado/Buffalo	73	11	18	29	53
Kale Clague	26	6-0	190	Left	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Rochester (AHL)	42	3	20	23	52
Connor Clifton	29	5-11	192	Right	Matawan, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Buffalo	79	4	14	18	88
Rasmus Dahlin	24	6-3	204	Left	Lidkoping, Swe.	1st overall (2018)	Buffalo	81	20	39	59	66
Dennis Gilbert	27	6-2	216	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary	34	1	6	7	16
Ryan Johnson	23	6-1	195	Left	Newport Beach, Calif.	31st overall (2019)	Buffalo	41	0	7	7	12
Henri Jokiharju	25	6-0	200	Right	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: Chi 7/9/19	Buffalo	74	3	17	20	24
Sean Keohane	19	6-4	182	Left	Boston, Mass.	173rd overall (2023)	West Kelowna (BCHL)	25	6	8	14	10
Adam Kleber	18	6-5	207	Right	Chaska, Minn.	42nd overall (2024)	Lincoln (USHL)	56	5	21	26	26
Vsevolod Komarov	20	6-2	182	Right	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	134th overall (2022)	Drummondville/Quebec (QMJHL)	60	14	55	69	105
Gavin McCarthy	19	6-2	185	Right	Troy, N.Y.	86th overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	38	1	4	5	41
Nikita Novikov	21	6-3	196	Left	Moscow, Rus.	188th overall (2021)	Rochester (AHL)	65	3	20	23	42
Luke Osburn	18	6-1	172	Left	Plymouth, Mich.	108th overall (2024)	Youngstown (USHL)	60	8	15	23	36
Norwin Panocha	19	6-1	178	Left	Bayreuth, Ger.	205th overall (2023)	Chicoutimi (QMJHL)	52	0	15	15	28
Colton Poolman	28	6-0	200	Left	East Grand Forks, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Calgary (AHL)	66	3	3	6	8
Owen Power	21	6-6	221	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	1st overall (2021)	Buffalo	76	6	27	33	28
Jack Rathbone	25	5-10	177	Left	Boston, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Abbotsford/WBS (AHL)	39	6	9	15	14
Mattias Samuelsson	24	6-4	224	Left	Philadelphia, Pa.	32nd overall (2018)	Buffalo	41	1	6	7	26
Maxim Strbak	19	6-2	205	Right	Kosice, Svk.	45th overall (2023)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	32	2	7	9	17

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Matteo Costantini	22	6-0	173	Left	St. Catharines, Ont.	131st overall (2020)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	38	11	20	31	18
Dylan Cozens	23	6-3	195	Right	Whitehorse, Yukon	7th overall (2019)	Buffalo	79	18	29	47	42
Josh Dunne	25	6-4	211	Left	O'Fallon, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	25	2	5	7	24
Konsta Helenius	18	5-11	180	Right	Ylojarvi, Fin.	14th overall (2024)	Jukurit (Fin.)	51	14	22	36	10
Mason Jobst	30	5-8	185	Left	Speedway, Ind.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Rochester (AHL)	64	22	28	50	49
Gustav Karlsson	20	6-1	165	Left	Guldsmedshyttan, Swe.	187th overall (2022)	Vimmerby (Swe.3)	31	5	8	13	4
Tyson Kozak	21	5-11	173	Left	Souris, Man.	193rd overall (2021)	Rochester (AHL)	41	5	7	12	14
Peyton Krebs	23	6-0	186	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Veg 11/4/21	Buffalo	80	4	13	17	67
Jiri Kulich	20	6-1	186	Left	Kadan, Cze.	28th overall (2022)	Rochester (AHL)	57	27	18	45	26
Sam Lafferty	29	6-2	205	Right	Hollidaysburg, Pa.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vancouver	79	13	11	24	32
Ryan McLeod	25	6-3	188	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Edm 7/5/24	Edmonton	81	12	18	30	10
Noah Ostlund	20	5-11	163	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	16th overall (2022)	Vaxjo (Swe.)	38	12	11	23	4
Arttu Ruotsalainen	26	5-9	187	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/8/19	Lugano (Sui.)	43	5	9	14	8
Linus Sjodin	21	6-0	167	Left	Angelholm, Swe.	211th overall (2022)	Rogle (Swe.)	52	3	5	8	8
Tage Thompson	26	6-6	220	Right	Phoenix, Ariz.	Trade: 7/1/18	Buffalo	71	29	27	56	43
William von Barnekow	21	6-2	158	Left	Malmo, Swe.	161st overall (2021)	Malmo (Swe.)	48	5	7	12	12
Anton Wahlberg	19	6-3	194	Left	Malmo, Swe.	39th overall (2023)	Malmo (Swe.)	43	5	5	10	4

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Zach Benson	19	5-10	170	Left	Chilliwack, B.C.	13th overall (2023)	Buffalo	71	11	19	30	36
Jordan Greenway	27	6-6	231	Left	Canton, N.Y.	Trade: Min 3/3/23	Buffalo	67	10	18	28	64
Aleksandr Kisakov	21	5-10	150	Left	Solikamsk, Rus.	53rd overall (2021)	Rochester (AHL)	32	5	8	13	12
Beck Malenstyn	26	6-3	200	Left	Delta, B.C.	Trade: Wsh 6/29/24	Washington	81	6	15	21	25
Viljami Marjala	21	6-0	178	Left	Oulu, Fin.	159th overall (2021)	TPS (Fin.)	60	17	23	40	16
Ethan Miedema	19	6-4	203	Left	Fort St. John, B.C.	109th overall (2023)	Kingston (OHL)	68	18	23	41	47
Brett Murray	26	6-5	228	Left	Bolton, Ont.	99th overall (2016)	Rochester (AHL)	54	17	15	32	36
Viktor Neuchev	20	6-2	165	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	74th overall (2022)	Rochester (AHL)	57	11	17	28	8
Jason Zucker	32	5-11	192	Left	Newport Beach, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Arizona/Nashville	69	14	18	32	81

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nicolas Aube-Kubel	28	6-0	207	Right	Slave Lake, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Washington	60	6	10	16	23
Patrick Geary	20	6-1	185	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	172nd overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	32	5	8	13	30
Aaron Huglen	23	6-0	167	Right	Roseau, Minn.	102nd overall (2019)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	37	13	8	21	21
Olivier Nadeau	21	6-2	204	Right	Lac-Etchemin, Que.	97th overall (2021)	Jacksonville (ECHL)	41	12	12	24	24
JJ Peterka	22	6-0	189	Left	Munich, Ger.	34th overall (2020)	Buffalo	82	28	22	50	28
Prokhor Poltapov	21	6-0	176	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	33rd overall (2021)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	56	5	8	13	12
Jack Quinn	23	6-1	185	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	8th overall (2020)	Buffalo	27	9	10	19	8
Joel Ratkovic Berndtsson	20	6-0	178	Left	Kungalv, Swe.	202nd overall (2022)	FPS (Fin.2)	22	4	7	11	12
Jake Richard	20	6-1	171	Right	Jacksonville, Fla.	170th overall (2022)	Connecticut (HE)	36	7	11	18	6
Isak Rosen	21	6-0	173	Left	Solna, Swe.	14th overall (2021)	Rochester (AHL)	67	20	30	50	12
Lukas Rousek	25	5-11	171	Left	Ostrov Nad Ohri, Cze.	160th overall (2019)	Rochester (AHL)	51	10	31	41	16
Stiven Sardarian	21	6-1	156	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	88th overall (2021)	New Hampshire (HE)	32	7	7	14	12
Alex Tuch	28	6-4	215	Right	Syracuse, Ariz.	Trade: Veg 11/4/21	Buffalo	75	22	37	59	54
Tyler Tullio	22	5-10	165	Right	Detroit, Mich.	Trade: Edm 7/5/24	Bakersfield (AHL)	54	9	12	21	36
Vasily Zelenov	18	6-0	180	Left	Moscow, Rus.	204th overall (2024)	RB Juniors (AlpsHL)	40	14	23	37	24
Brodie Ziemer	18	5-11	190	Right	Hutchinson, Minn.	71st overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	27	43	70	16

CALGARY FLAMES

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BY STEVE MACFARLANE

NOBODY IS EXPECTING TOO much from the Flames this season. That's what happens when you trade away your top center and half of your starting defenders mid-season, then deal your starting goalie before the draft. They may call it a retool, but it's more aligned with a full rebuild. Gone are Jacob Markstrom, Elias Lindholm, Andrew Mangiapane, Noah Hanifin, Nikita Zadorov and Chris Tanev. Flames GM Craig Conroy was cautious in free agency as well, bringing in reclamation project Anthony Mantha as the top acquisition.

Playoffs? Anything is possible, but they're unlikely. The prospect cupboard is full, however, after a 10-player draft chock-full of solid prospects. Top pick Zayne Parekh will get a long look in camp. The future is the focus.

>OFFENSE

Mantha was brought in on a one-year deal specifically in the hopes of helping to rejuvenate former 100-point winger Jonathan Huberdeau, who has plunged off a cliff in his two seasons with the Flames while his former Panthers have appeared in back-to-back Stanley Cup finals and won it all last season. Perhaps the biggest move was signing 26-year-old winger Yegor Sharangovich to an extension. He's a good bet to lead the team in goals for a second straight season. Nazem Kadri (75 points), Blake Coleman (30 goals) and rookie Connor Zary were other bright spots up front. But if the Flames are to surprise anyone, they'll need a repeat strong showing year from Andrei Kuzmenko and lots of support from defensemen MacKenzie Weegar and Rasmus Andersson. There's also a lot of young players sprinkled throughout the lineup who will need to contribute. Can they find the chemistry?

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
38-39-5 (.494)

OVERTIME
6-1

SHOOTOUT
0-4

OVERALL
24th

OFFENSE
3.09 (18th)

DEFENSE
3.26 (23rd)

POWER PLAY
17.9% (26th)

PENALTY KILL
80.8% (9th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.59 (15th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.54 (15th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
E. Lindholm (20:45)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Andersson (23:50)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Ryan Huska

GM
Craig Conroy

ARENA
Scotiabank Saddledome

CAPACITY
19,289

AHL AFFILIATE
Calgary Wranglers

ECHL AFFILIATE
Rapid City Rush

PLAYOFF RECORD
10-12 (since 2020)

BRETT HOLMES-USA TODAY SPORTS

MACKENZIE WEEGAR

DEFENSE

When you turn over as many high-end defenders as the Flames have in the past year, there are going to be growing pains. The Flames are hoping Weegar and Andersson will lead the way and that UFA signing Jake Bean can come in and make an immediate impact. Daniil Miromanov showed promise on the power play in his 20 games after a trade brought him to town. That quartet might form the top four for the squad this season. Kevin Bahl, Joel Hanley and Brayden Pachal are the leading depth candidates.

GOALTENDING

With a lack of proven defensive depth, the goaltenders are going to earn their paycheques. And Calgary doesn't have 2022 Vezina Trophy finalist Markstrom to do the heavy lifting. By trading Markstrom, the Flames have paved the way for Dustin Wolf to play a lot. Backup Dan Vladar is coming off hip surgery, and Calgary also added Devin Cooley as insurance. Basically, it is Wolf's crease to lose. His NHL appearances have been inconsistent thus far, but this is the opportunity he's been waiting for.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play was abysmal early last season, but it really turned around as the year went on. A big reason for that was the addition of Kuzmenko before the trade deadline. He helped spark the group, as did the swap from Andersson to Weegar on the point. Calgary's man advantage was third-worst in the league before the trade deadline and third-best the rest of the way. They'll be looking to pick up where they left off. The penalty kill went the opposite way, starting the year well but going off the rails after the Flames lost most of their top penalty-killers before the trade deadline. It could get messy this year as they look for the right fits.

INTANGIBLES

The Flames are getting younger, and the opportunity for prospects to make their mark can be viewed as a positive. It doesn't mean much for winning games in the short term, but the group will be looking to develop chemistry. The hope is that veteran leaders such as captain Mikael Backlund, Huberdeau and Kadri can remain positive despite being stuck in a rebuild. It's all a bit fragile.

ROOKIES

The Flames' best shot at a Calder Trophy this year is Wolf, but backing this rebuilding squad is going to be tough on the numbers. Most of the team's other talented young players, such as Zary and Matt Coronato, are no longer rookie eligible, so any real rookie excitement would have to come as a surprise out of training camp – perhaps someone such as 19-year-old defenseman Hunter Brzustewicz.

X-FACTOR

There are many candidates, including bounce-back hopeful Huberdeau and young right winger Coronato. But the biggest key to exceeding expectations is a stellar season from Wolf. The rookie goaltender has a clear path to the No. 1 job, but is he ready for it?

THE BRASS

Conroy has done a nice job in his first full year at the helm. He inherited a tough situation but has made some solid trades and signings with a focus on rebuilding with draft capital and young prospects.

CUP ODDS

70/1

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

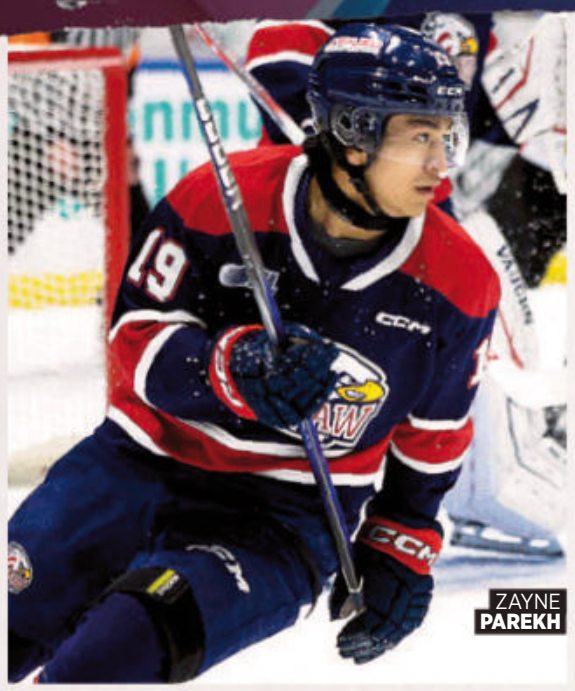
DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jonathan Huberdeau	1. Nazem Kadri	1. Andrei Kuzmenko
2. Connor Zary	2. Mikael Backlund	2. Blake Coleman
3. Jakob Pelletier	3. Yegor Sharangovich	3. Anthony Mantha
4. Ryan Lomberg	4. Martin Pospisil	4. Matt Coronato
5. Dryden Hunt	5. Kevin Rooney	5. Walker Duehr

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. MacKenzie Weegar	6. Brayden Pachal	1. Dustin Wolf
2. Rasmus Andersson	7. Joel Hanley	2. Dan Vladar
3. Daniil Miromanov	8. Ilya Solovyov	3. Devin Cooley
4. Jake Bean	9. Jeremie Poirier	
5. Kevin Bahl	10. Yan Kuznetsov	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jacob Markstrom, G; Andrew Mangiapane, LW; Oliver Kylington, D; A.J. Greer, LW; Dillon Dube, C; Jordan Oesterle, D; Nikita Okhotiuk, D



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Zayne Parekh
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Saginaw (OHL)
Deft playmaker is teeming with offensive upside, and his decision-making is just as impressive.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Matt Coronato
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Calgary (AHL)
Dangerous shooter with quick release. Finer details are all that separates him from top-six duty.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

3. Dustin Wolf
Pos G **Age** 23
2023-24 Calgary (AHL)
AHL's 2022-23 MVP has proven he's ready to take next step. Elite athleticism and reflexes.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Matvei Gridin
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Muskegon (USHL)
Top USHL scorer is all gas. He's always looking to attack – sometimes to defensive detriment.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Samuel Honzek
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Vancouver (WHL)
Strong skater and good on his edges for a player his size. He can also play down the middle.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Andrew Basha
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Medicine Hat (WHL)
Good speed. Good shot. Better playmaker. At his best while working the wall on the power play.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Hunter Brzustewicz
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Kitchener (OHL)
In the mold of many new-age blueliners. He makes up for size with puck-moving and creativity.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Jakob Pelletier
Pos LW **Age** 23
2023-24 Calgary (AHL)
Injury cost feisty forechecker much of last season. Pairs creativity with crash-and-bang style.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

9. Jeremie Poirier
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Calgary (AHL)
Started well before injury marred campaign. He pushes the pace with vision and distribution.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. William Stromgren
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Calgary (AHL)
Settled in as season wore on and finished with strong playoff showing. Quick and agile skater.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80		
	66 Kadri	
60	58 Kuzmenko 57 Huberdeau	
	55 Sharangovich	
	45 Zary	
40	40 Coleman 38 Backlund	Weegar 40 Andersson 40
	35 Mantha 34 Coronato 33 Pospisil	
	26 Pelletier	
20		Bean 21 Miromanov 18
	14 Lomberg 12 Duehr 11 Rooney	
		Bahl 10
		Solovyov 7 Pachal 6 Hanley 5
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Pittsburgh	8:45 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	@ Utah	9:30 PM
Fri, Nov 1	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	vs Los Angeles	8:30 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Minnesota	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Columbus	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs Columbus	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Chicago	4:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 13	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	@ Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ Seattle	9:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Toronto	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Florida	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 12	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ NY Islanders	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 31	@ Colorado	8:30 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Anaheim	9:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Wed, Apr 9	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Vegas	9:00 PM

NATALIE SHAVER/OHL IMAGES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

CALGARY FLAMES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Daniil Chechelev	23	6-3	187	Right	Khabarovsk, Rus.	96th overall (2020)	Ryazan (Rus.2)	5	2-3-0	3.10	.908
Devin Cooley	27	6-5	192	Left	Los Gatos, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	14	6-6-2	3.77	.891
Waltteri Ignatjew	24	6-3	200	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 4/15/24	Mora (Swe.2)	45	26-18-0	2.34	.918
Arsenii Sergeev	21	6-3	192	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	205th overall (2021)	Connecticut (HE)	16	8-8-0	2.70	.913
Dan Vladar	27	6-5	209	Left	Prague, Cze.	Trade: Bos 7/28/21	Calgary	20	8-9-2	3.62	.882
Dustin Wolf	23	6-0	166	Left	Gilroy, Calif.	214th overall (2019)	Calgary (AHL)	36	20-12-3	2.45	.922
Yegor Yegorov	19	6-3	183	Left	Moscow, Rus.	176th overall (2023)	Dynamo Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	25	10-8-3	2.46	.917
Kirill Zarubin	19	6-3	178	Left	Penza, Rus.	84th overall (2024)	AKM-Jr. TR/AKM Tula Jr. (Rus.)	45	19-18-7	2.81	.927
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Rasmus Andersson	27	6-1	202	Right	Malmo, Swe.	53rd overall (2015)	Calgary	78	9	30	39	47
Jonathan Aspirot	25	6-0	200	Left	Mascouche, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Calgary (AHL)	66	6	27	33	80
Kevin Bahl	24	6-6	230	Left	New Westminster, B.C.	Trade: NJ 6/19/24	New Jersey	82	1	10	11	82
Jake Bean	26	6-1	191	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Columbus	72	4	9	13	32
Jake Boltmann	22	6-1	188	Right	Edina, Minn.	80th overall (2020)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	30	0	2	2	22
Hunter Brzustewicz	19	6-0	190	Right	Washington, Mich.	Trade: Van 1/31/24	Kitchener (OHL)	67	13	79	92	24
Artem Grushnikov	21	6-1	203	Left	Voskresensk, Rus.	Trade: Dal 2/28/24	Texas/Calgary (AHL)	64	1	5	6	40
Joel Hanley	33	5-11	186	Left	Keswick, Ont.	Waivers: Dal 3/5/24	Dallas/Calgary	42	1	4	5	30
Axel Hurtig	19	6-4	202	Left	Hogas, Swe.	208th overall (2023)	Rogle Jr. (Swe.)	27	3	8	11	35
Eric Jamieson	19	6-3	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	177th overall (2024)	Everett (WHL)	66	10	22	32	70
Joni Jurmo	22	6-3	190	Left	Espoo, Fin.	Trade: Van 1/31/24	Ilves/KooKoo	46	1	4	5	14
Yan Kuznetsov	22	6-4	209	Left	Murmansk, Rus.	50th overall (2020)	Calgary (AHL)	63	5	8	13	27
Carl-Johan Lerby	27	5-11	180	Left	Trelleborg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 5/7/19	Bjorkloven (Swe.2)	25	2	9	11	8
Henry Mews	18	6-0	181	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	74th overall (2024)	Ottawa (OHL)	65	15	46	61	65
Daniil Miromanov	27	6-4	207	Right	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Veg 3/7/24	Vegas/Calgary	24	3	4	7	8
Etienne Morin	19	6-0	180	Left	Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que.	48th overall (2023)	Moncton (QMJHL)	58	12	37	49	31
Nikita Okhotiuk	23	6-1	195	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Trade: SJ 3/8/24	San Jose/Calgary	52	1	8	9	48
Brayden Pachal	25	6-2	202	Right	Estevan, Sask.	Waivers: Veg 2/4/24	Vegas/Calgary	50	2	5	7	51
Zayne Parekh	18	6-0	179	Right	Markham, Ont.	9th overall (2024)	Saginaw (OHL)	66	33	63	96	64
Jeremie Poirier	22	6-1	196	Left	Valleyfield, Que.	72nd overall (2020)	Calgary (AHL)	23	3	10	13	22
Ilya Solovyov	24	6-3	208	Left	Mogilev, Blr.	205th overall (2020)	Calgary (AHL)	51	5	10	15	34
MacKenzie Weegar	30	6-0	206	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Trade: Fla 7/22/22	Calgary	82	20	32	52	51
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Mikael Backlund	35	6-0	206	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	24th overall (2007)	Calgary	82	15	24	39	24
Clark Bishop	28	6-1	197	Left	St. John's, Nfld.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Calgary (AHL)	57	10	12	22	72
Blake Coleman	32	5-11	199	Left	Plano, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Calgary	78	30	24	54	76
Jonathan Huberdeau	31	6-1	200	Left	St-Jerome, Que.	Trade: Fla 7/22/22	Calgary	81	12	40	52	49
Nazem Kadri	33	6-0	185	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 8/18/22	Calgary	82	29	46	75	43
Rory Kerins	22	5-10	175	Left	Caledon, Ont.	174th overall (2020)	Calgary (AHL)	54	16	16	32	8
Justin Kirkland	28	6-3	183	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Tucson (AHL)	43	8	22	30	25
Hunter Laing	18	6-5	205	Right	Virginia Beach, Va.	170th overall (2024)	Prince George (WHL)	66	11	14	25	32
Jaden Lipinski	19	6-4	204	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	112th overall (2023)	Vancouver (WHL)	67	24	42	66	55
Cade Littler	20	6-3	197	Right	East Wenatchee, Wash.	219th overall (2022)	Penticton (BCHL)	24	9	12	21	14
Luke Misa	18	5-10	170	Left	Oakville, Ont.	150th overall (2024)	Mississauga (OHL)	66	26	55	81	8
Ilya Nikolaev	23	6-0	190	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	88th overall (2019)	Calgary (AHL)	29	3	3	6	8
Martin Pospisil	24	6-2	173	Left	Zvolen, Svk.	105th overall (2018)	Calgary	63	8	16	24	109
Kevin Rooney	31	6-2	190	Left	Canton, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Calgary	33	3	1	4	2
Yegor Sharangovich	26	6-2	196	Left	Minsk, Blr.	Trade: NJ 6/27/23	Calgary	82	31	28	59	8
Connor Zary	23	6-0	178	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	24th overall (2020)	Calgary	63	14	20	34	22
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Andrew Basha	18	5-11	174	Left	Calgary, Alta.	41st overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	63	30	55	85	48
Parker Bell	21	6-4	192	Left	Estevan, Sask.	155th overall (2022)	Tri-City (WHL)	59	33	31	64	38
Lucas Ciona	21	6-3	210	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	173rd overall (2021)	Calgary (AHL)	55	4	2	6	82
Samuel Honzek	19	6-4	186	Left	Trencin, Svk.	16th overall (2023)	Vancouver (WHL)	33	10	21	31	18
Dryden Hunt	28	6-0	193	Left	Cranbrook, B.C.	Trade: Tor 3/3/23	Calgary	28	3	5	8	7
Demetrios Koumontzis	24	5-10	183	Left	Pittsburgh, Pa.	108th overall (2018)	Idaho (ECHL)	47	9	10	19	36
Andrei Kuzmenko	28	5-11	194	Right	Yakutsk, Rus.	Trade: Van 1/31/24	Vancouver/Calgary	72	22	24	46	12
Ryan Lomberg	30	5-9	184	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Florida	75	5	2	7	80
Sam Morton	25	6-0	185	Left	Lafayette, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/24	Minnesota State (CCHA)	37	24	10	34	10
Jakob Pelletier	23	5-9	170	Left	Quebec, Que.	26th overall (2019)	Calgary (AHL)	18	5	7	12	10
William Stromgren	21	6-3	175	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	45th overall (2021)	Calgary (AHL)	68	7	20	27	16
Aydar Suniev	19	6-2	198	Left	Kazan, Rus.	80th overall (2023)	UMass (HE)	36	12	13	25	25
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jacob Battaglia	18	6-1	196	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	62nd overall (2024)	Kingston (OHL)	67	31	34	65	34
Matt Coronato	21	5-10	183	Right	Greenlawn, N.Y.	13th overall (2021)	Calgary (AHL)	41	15	27	42	19
Walker Duehr	26	6-2	210	Right	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Free Agent: signed 4/11/21	Calgary	40	2	5	7	6
Martin Frk	30	6-1	210	Right	Pelhrimov, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Bern/Rapperswil (Sui.)	33	7	9	16	10
Matvei Gridin	18	6-1	182	Left	Kurgan, Rus.	28th overall (2024)	Muskegon (USHL)	60	38	45	83	51
Trevor Hoskin	20	6-1	175	Right	Belleville, Ont.	106th overall (2024)	Cobourg (OJHL)	52	42	58	100	34
Adam Klapka	24	6-8	235	Right	Prague, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/16/22	Calgary (AHL)	65	21	25	46	90
Anthony Mantha	30	6-5	234	Left	Longueuil, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Washington/Vegas	74	23	21	44	25
Cole Schwindt	23	6-2	182	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	Trade: Fla 7/22/22	Calgary (AHL)	66	14	22	36	31
Eetu Tuulola	26	6-2	224	Right	Hameenlinna, Fin.	156th overall (2016)	HPK (Fin.)	52	12	11	23	32

CAROLINA HURRICANES

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
52-23-7 (.677)

OVERTIME
6-2

SHOOTOUT
2-5

OVERALL
3rd

OFFENSE
3.38 GPG (8th)

DEFENSE
2.57 GAA (4th)

POWER PLAY
26.9% (2nd)

PENALTY KILL
86.4% (1st)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.94 (2nd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.23 (3rd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
S. Aho (19:38)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
B. Burns (21:30)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Rod Brind'Amour

GM
Eric Tulsky

ARENA
PNC Arena

CAPACITY
18,700

AHL AFFILIATE
Chicago Wolves

ECHL AFFILIATE
N/A

PLAYOFF RECORD
30-29 (since 2020)

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY LUKE DECOCK

THE WINDS OF CHANGE swept through the Hurricanes this summer, not unexpectedly, as a salary-cap-provoked restructuring saw veteran stalwarts Brady Skjei, Brett Pesce and Teuvo Teravainen depart along with deadline rental Jake Guentzel, who the Hurricanes had hoped to re-sign.

A reckoning was coming after a team with massive expectations fell short in the playoffs for the third year in a row. While the team's macro window to contend remains open with Sebastian Aho, Andrei Svechnikov, Seth Jarvis and Jaccob Slavin at its core, one micro window closed, and it may be a minute before another opens. Just how long will be up to new GM Eric Tulsky, the team's longtime analytics guru who was promoted after Don Waddell left for Columbus. With the way the Hurricanes make decisions – collectively – that's not as big of a change as it might be elsewhere, but Tulsky inherited a long to-do list.

>OFFENSE

Aho, Svechnikov and Jarvis will continue to be the main offensive threats, with Jordan Staal anchoring one of the league's most dominant lines, even if it doesn't always have the production to show for it. Some pieces will change around them, with Jesper Fast recovering from whiplash and incoming free agents Jack Roslovic, William Carrier, Eric Robinson and Tyson Jost providing depth. Jack Drury emerged as a capable third-line center, but Carolina needs more from Jesperi Kotkaniemi. Martin Necas is, at least temporarily, out of the rumor mill after the speedy, skilled restricted free agent signed a two-year extention in late July. The Hurricanes have always been a

quantity-over-quality offensive team, prioritizing possession and shot volume. That's worked in the regular season but not as well in the playoffs.

DEFENSE

The biggest changes are on the blueline, where Pesce and Skjei were integral parts of what had been arguably the league's deepest defense. The Canes added Sean Walker and brought back Shayne Gostisbehere to replace them, but whether that's like-for-like remains to be seen. A perennial strength is now a question mark. The Hurricanes still have their top pairing of Slavin and Brent Burns, capable of going up against the NHL's best, and the useful duo of Dmitry Orlov and Jalen Chatfield. It's a versatile, puck-moving group without a marquee star, although Slavin deserves more Norris Trophy consideration than he gets.

GOALTENDING

It will be a changing of the guard in net as Pyotr Kochetkov's role increases and Frederik Andersen's recedes. Andersen has been the No. 1 for three seasons, but durability has been an issue for him. The fiery Kochetkov, who made the NHL's all-rookie team, saved the Canes' season in December and will get the chance to play as much as he can handle this time around. Carolina is always a two-goalie team, but he's the nominal No. 1.

SPECIAL TEAMS

For several years, this has been one of the top teams both on the power play and penalty kill... in the regular season. Both units have struggled in the post-season to various degrees – a flaw that has too often proven fatal. Teravainen was a key component on both the PP and PK, and someone must step up to fill those roles. With one of the NHL's most aggressive shorthanded units, the Hurricanes continue to be dangerous while a man down. The power play has shown steady improvement as Aho and Svechnikov have matured, but Carolina could use more firepower on the blueline as Burns ages.

INTANGIBLES

In this season of transition, the leadership of longtime captain Staal and potential successor Aho will be tested, because so many of the constants who the Canes have relied upon for years are gone. This has been a franchise on the cusp of a Stanley Cup for a few years without breaking through, and a step back would be understandable. At least there's never any doubt about the effort level of a Rod Brind'Amour-coached team.

ROOKIES

If D-man Scott Morrow starts in the AHL, he's unlikely to stay there all season. Another top 'D' prospect, Alexander Nikishin, will be in the NHL soon. It's just a question of when Carolina can get him out of Russia.

X-FACTOR

For a team that's piled up regular-season wins without winning a single game in the conference final, these changes may be a welcome catalyst. If Kochetkov steps up in net and players like Drury and Kotkaniemi flourish in expanded roles, the Canes may not miss a beat.

THE BRASS

Tulsky worked for two GMs and built one of the NHL's most highly regarded analytics staffs before getting to run the show. But it's not a one-man band. There are several other voices in the mix, including Brind'Amour, assistant GM Darren Yorke and owner Tom Dundon.

CUP ODDS

19/1

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Andrei Svechnikov	1. Sebastian Aho	1. Seth Jarvis
2. Jordan Martinook	2. Jordan Staal	2. Martin Necas
3. William Carrier	3. Evgeny Kuznetsov	3. Jesperi Kotkaniemi
4. Eric Robinson	4. Jack Drury	4. Jesper Fast
5. Brendan Lemieux	5. Tyson Jost	5. Jack Roslovic

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jaccob Slavin	6. Jalen Chatfield	1. Pyotr Kochetkov
2. Brent Burns	7. Scott Morrow	2. Frederik Andersen
3. Dmitry Orlov	8. Ty Smith	3. Spencer Martin
4. Sean Walker	9. Anttoni Honka	
5. Shayne Gostisbehere	10. Riley Stillman	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jake Guentzel, RW; Brady Skjei, D; Brett Pesce, D; Teuvo Teravainen, RW; Stefan Noesen, RW; Tony DeAngelo, D

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Alexander Nikishin
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 St. Petersburg (KHL)
Arguably KHL's best two-way defenseman was named team captain last year. All-star potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Bradly Nadeau
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Maine (HE)
Hobey Baker nominee is slight but has shown puck skill and production. Turned pro last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Scott Morrow
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 UMass (HE)
Great skater with top-unit power-play quarterback upside. AHL seasoning will help with details.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Dominik Badinka
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Malmo (Swe.)
Strong second half buoyed draft stock of mobile blueliner. Can stretch the ice with passing.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Gleb Trikozov
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Omsk (Rus.2)
Good numbers in lower-tier Russian circuits. Next test is producing in North American pro game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Nikita Artamonov
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)
The puck skills, playmaking and hockey sense are there. Skating is all that's holding him back.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Felix Unger Sorum
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Leksand (Swe.)
Knack for finding and hitting fine passing seams. Could use bulk. No rush to get him to NHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Jackson Blake
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 North Dakota (NCHC)
Tied for fourth in NCAA scoring before inking pro deal. Natural scorer will go to tough areas.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Jayden Perron
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 North Dakota (NCHC)
Just 5-foot-9, but speed and slipperiness are his weapons. Will benefit from more time in NCAA.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Noel Fransen
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)
Transitioned well to pro game. Brings offensive talent and skating ability, but he needs to add size.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
	87 Aho	
80		
	70 Jarvis 70 Svechnikov	
	63 Necas	
60		
		Gostisbehere 56
	44 Roslovic	
	40 Kotkaniemi	
40		Slavin 38
	35 Martinook 34 Drury 33 Staal	Burns 33
		Orlov 29
	25 Fast	
		Walker 22
20		
	18 Carrier	Chatfield 18
	13 Lemieux 12 Robinson 11 Jost	
		Morrow 9
0		

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 11	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 18	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs Washington	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	vs St. Louis	5:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Florida	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Florida	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ NY Islanders	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 13	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	vs Columbus	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	@ NY Rangers	12:30 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Columbus	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 10	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	vs Anaheim	5:00 PM
Wed, Jan 15	@ Buffalo	6:00 PM
Fri, Jan 17	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Utah	1:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	vs Calgary	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs Winnipeg	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs NY Islanders	5:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 4	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs NY Rangers	3:30 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Toronto	5:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM

ILYA SMIRNOV/KHL PHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

CAROLINA HURRICANES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Frederik Andersen	34	6-4	238	Left	Herning, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Carolina	16	13-2-0	1.84	.932
Patrik Hamrla	21	6-3	194	Left	Zlin, Cze.	83rd overall (2021)	Koovee (Fin.2)	21	5-13-2	4.10	.870
Ruslan Khazheev	19	6-4	201	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	158th overall (2023)	Chelyabinsk Jr. (Rus.)	28	16-5-2	2.19	.927
Pyotr Kochetkov	25	6-3	205	Left	Penza, Rus.	36th overall (2019)	Carolina	42	23-13-4	2.33	.911
Jacob Kucharski	25	6-4	215	Left	Erie, Pa.	197th overall (2018)	Reading (ECHL)	3	1-0-1	5.09	.852
Spencer Martin	29	6-3	191	Left	Oakville, Ont.	Waivers: Clb 1/19/24	Columbus/Carolina	19	7-9-2	3.30	.889
Yegor Naumov	21	6-3	198	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	200th overall (2021)	Murmansk Jr. (Rus.2)	8	1-6-0	5.51	.891
Yaniv Perets	24	6-1	181	Left	Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.	Free Agent: signed 4/12/23	Norfolk (ECHL)	34	18-11-3	2.99	.889
Nikita Quapp	21	6-3	187	Left	Ravensburg, Ger.	187th overall (2021)	Lausitzer (Ger.2)	26	11-14-0	2.63	.920
Yegor Velmakin	21	6-2	172	Left	Moscow, Rus.	222nd overall (2023)	Molodechno (Blr.)	8	1-7-0	2.65	.926
Jakub Vondras	20	6-3	180	Right	Plzen, Cze.	171st overall (2022)	Sudbury (OHL)	37	20-10-3	3.79	.861

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Dominik Badinka	18	6-3	183	Right	Chomutov, Cze.	34th overall (2024)	Malmo (Swe.)	33	1	3	4	6
Brent Burns	39	6-5	230	Right	Barrie, Ont.	Trade: SJ 7/13/22	Carolina	82	10	33	43	20
Jalen Chatfield	28	6-1	188	Right	Ypsilanti, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/29/21	Carolina	72	8	14	22	24
Domenick Fensore	23	5-7	151	Left	Bronxville, N.Y.	90th overall (2019)	Chicago (AHL)	39	2	14	16	18
Simon Forsmark	20	6-2	191	Left	Orebro, Swe.	101st overall (2022)	Timra (Swe.)	52	6	13	19	2
Noel Fransen	18	6-0	183	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	69th overall (2024)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	45	20	24	44	16
Shayne Gostisbehere	31	5-11	183	Left	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Detroit	81	10	46	56	16
Vladimir Grudinin	20	5-10	158	Left	Angarsk, Rus.	156th overall (2022)	CSKA/Cherepovets (KHL)	53	2	8	10	10
Aleksi Heimosalmi	21	5-11	170	Right	Pori, Fin.	44th overall (2021)	Assat (Fin.)	47	2	14	16	12
Anttoni Honka	23	5-10	179	Right	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	83rd overall (2019)	JYP (Fin.)	48	2	21	23	12
Joey Keane	25	6-0	187	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Trade: NYR 2/18/20	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	38	4	7	11	24
Timur Kol	18	6-4	204	Left	Moscow, Rus.	168th overall (2024)	Omsk (Rus.2)	23	5	3	8	10
Charles-Alexis Legault	21	6-3	208	Right	Montreal, Que.	139th overall (2023)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	39	9	15	24	53
Bryce Montgomery	21	6-4	215	Right	Washington, D.C.	170th overall (2021)	South Carolina (ECHL)	42	4	8	12	20
Scott Morrow	21	6-2	195	Right	Darien, Conn.	40th overall (2021)	UMass (HE)	37	6	24	30	25
Alexander Nikishin	22	6-3	196	Left	Orel, Rus.	69th overall (2020)	St. Petersburg (KHL)	67	17	39	56	39
Joel Nystrom	22	5-11	170	Right	Karlstad, Swe.	219th overall (2021)	Farjestad (Swe.)	51	8	18	26	18
Dmitry Orlov	33	5-11	214	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Carolina	82	6	20	26	36
Alexander Pelevin	20	6-1	183	Left	Balakhna, Rus.	205th overall (2022)	Penza/Kurgan (Rus.2)	43	3	8	11	35
Tarmo Reunanen	26	6-0	185	Left	Aanekoski, Fin.	Trade: NYR 3/28/22	Lukko (Fin.)	55	8	20	28	35
Joakim Ryan	31	5-11	185	Left	Rumson, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/24	Malmo (Swe.)	52	7	11	18	16
Ronan Seeley	22	6-0	176	Left	Yellowknife, N.W.T.	208th overall (2020)	Chicago (AHL)	58	2	12	14	16
Jesper Sellgren	26	5-11	169	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	166th overall (2018)	Lulea (Swe.)	50	8	10	18	17
Roman Shokhrin	18	6-5	205	Left	Nizhny Novgorod, Rus.	184th overall (2024)	Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)	36	2	12	14	26
Alexander Siryatsky	18	6-2	159	Left	Omsk, Rus.	124th overall (2024)	Magnitogorsk Jr. (Rus.)	36	5	14	19	18
Jaccob Slavin	30	6-3	207	Left	Denver, Colo.	120th overall (2012)	Carolina	81	6	31	37	8
Ty Smith	24	5-11	180	Left	Lloydminster, Alta.	Trade: Pit 3/7/24	WB/Scranton (AHL)	63	9	34	43	36
Riley Stillman	26	6-1	196	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Rochester (AHL)	47	2	4	6	49
Sean Walker	29	5-11	191	Right	Keswick, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Philadelphia/Colorado	81	10	19	29	50

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Sebastian Aho	27	6-0	176	Left	Rauma. Fin.	35th overall (2015)	Carolina	78	36	53	89	36
Jack Drury	24	5-11	174	Left	New York, N.Y.	42nd overall (2018)	Carolina	74	8	19	27	33
Nikita Guslistov	22	5-10	178	Left	Cherepovets, Rus.	209th overall (2021)	Cherepovets (KHL)	26	0	1	1	0
Seth Jarvis	22	5-10	175	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	13th overall (2020)	Carolina	81	33	34	67	14
Tyson Jost	26	5-11	187	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Buffalo	43	3	3	6	10
Jesperi Kotkaniemi	24	6-2	201	Left	Pori, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 8/28/21	Carolina	79	12	15	27	36
Lucas Mercuri	22	6-3	191	Right	Montreal, Que.	159th overall (2020)	UMass (HE)	37	9	16	25	29
Martin Necas	25	6-2	189	Right	Nove Mesto na Morave, Cze.	12th overall (2017)	Carolina	77	24	29	53	42
Justin Robidas	21	5-8	173	Right	Plano, Texas	147th overall (2021)	Norfolk (ECHL)	32	12	15	27	6
Jack Roslovic	27	6-1	198	Right	Columbus, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/4/24	Columbus/NY Rangers	59	9	22	31	16
Jordan Staal	36	6-4	220	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Trade: Pit 6/22/12	Carolina	80	10	20	30	44
Ryan Suzuki	23	6-0	176	Left	London, Ont.	28th overall (2019)	Springfield (AHL)	51	14	16	30	14

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nikita Artamonov	18	5-11	187	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	50th overall (2024)	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	54	7	16	23	16
Fyodor Avramov	18	6-3	190	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	188th overall (2024)	Stupino Jr. (Rus.)	49	23	21	44	22
William Carrier	29	6-2	220	Left	LaSalle, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vegas	39	6	2	8	16
Juha Jaaska	26	6-0	196	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 4/9/24	HIFK (Fin.)	57	10	20	30	40
Andrey Krutov	18	5-11	174	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	220th overall (2024)	Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)	41	21	29	50	12
Brendan Lemieux	28	6-1	215	Left	Denver, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 7/11/23	Carolina	32	3	2	5	64
Jordan Martinook	32	6-0	196	Left	Brandon, Man.	Trade: Ari 5/3/18	Carolina	82	14	18	32	36
Timur Mukhanov	19	5-7	178	Right	Glazov, Rus.	163rd overall (2023)	Cherepovets (KHL)	60	5	9	14	8
Bradly Nadeau	19	5-10	161	Right	St-Francois de Madaw, N.B.	30th overall (2023)	Maine (HE)	37	19	27	46	12
Alexander Perevalov	20	6-0	191	Right	Mezhdurechensk, Rus.	71st overall (2022)	Sochi (KHL)	11	0	2	2	8
Eric Robinson	29	6-2	211	Left	Bellmawr, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Columbus/Buffalo	47	3	7	10	19
Josiah Slavin	25	6-3	189	Left	Erie, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 7/7/24	Toronto (AHL)	70	10	14	24	45
Gleb Trikozov	20	6-1	185	Right	Omsk, Rus.	60th overall (2022)	Omsk (Rus.2)	39	11	10	21	18
Oskar Vuollet	18	5-11	173	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	133rd overall (2024)	Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)	41	29	32	61	6

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jackson Blake	21	5-10	173	Right	Fargo, N.D.	109th overall (2021)	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	22	38	60	26
Michael Emerson	20	6-1	192	Right	Yorktown Heights, N.Y.	190th overall (2023)	Chicago (USHL)	27	9	11	20	12
Jesper Fast	32	6-1	191	Right	Nassjo, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 10/10/20	Carolina	73	6	13	19	16
Noel Gunler	22	6-2	176	Right	Lulea, Swe.	41st overall (2020)	Karpat (Fin.)	24	5	3	8	6
Jayden Perron	19	5-9	163	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	94th overall (2023)	North Dakota (NCHC)	39	11	7	18	8
Justin Poirier	18	5-7	185	Right	Valleyfield, Que.	156th overall (2024)	Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)	68	51	31	82	68
Alexander Rykov	19	6-0	176	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	100th overall (2023)	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	29	6	2	8	6
Andrei Svechnikov	24	6-2	195	Left	Barnaul, Rus.	2nd overall (2018)	Carolina	59	19	33	52	58
Felix Unger Sorum	19	5-11	170	Right	Trondheim, Nor.	62nd overall (2023)	Leksand (Swe.)	35	3	12	15	2
Stanislav Yarovoi	21	5-11	190	Right	Tuymazy, Rus.	126th overall (2023)	Vityaz Moscow Region (KHL)	36	4	7	11	4

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

CONNOR BEDARD

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
23-53-6 (.317)

OVERTIME
5-5

SHOOTOUT
1-1

OVERALL
31st

OFFENSE
2.17 (32nd)

DEFENSE
3.52 (29th)

POWER PLAY
16.6% (28th)

PENALTY KILL
75.8% (27th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.11 (32nd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.87 (29th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. Bedard (19:47)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
S. Jones (25:29)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Luke Richardson

GM
Kyle Davidson

ARENA
United Center

CAPACITY
19,717

AHL AFFILIATE
Rockford IceHogs

ECHL AFFILIATE
Indy Fuel

PLAYOFF RECORD
4-5 (since 2020)

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY MATT CARLSON

DESPITE THE ARRIVAL OF Connor Bedard, the 2023-24 season was a painful one in Chicago. The 18-year-old No. 1 overall pick in 2023 and eventual Calder Trophy winner delivered 22 goals and 61 points – along with some memorable plays – in 68 games. But the Blackhawks were thin on talent to begin with, then decimated by injuries. Taylor Hall, acquired to skate on Bedard's wing, had season-ending ACL surgery in November, and it got worse from there. Even Bedard wasn't exempt, missing 14 games with a broken jaw. The Hawks finished 31st with a 23-53-6 record. The loss total set a franchise record. Chicago's 178 goals were fewest in the NHL.

On the bright side, Chicago has plenty of terrific prospects, especially on defense. To tide the team over immediately, GM Kyle Davidson signed eight UFAs – led by wingers Tyler Bertuzzi and Teuvo Teravainen – on July 1. Bedard has more help, and the Hawks will be better.

OFFENSE

It all starts with Bedard. He played most of last season with winger Philipp Kurashev, who broke out for 18 goals and 54 points. Teravainen – who returns to the place he started his NHL career after eight seasons in Carolina – and Bertuzzi are solid top-six forwards. Both topped 20 goals last season and figure to get more ice time. Hall, the 2017-18 Hart Trophy winner, has rehabbed hard to prove he's still a top-six guy at 32. Jason Dickinson was a shutdown center last season and scored a career-high 22 goals. Expect some production as well from Ilya Mikheyev, acquired from Vancouver, along with Nick Foligno and a healthy Andreas Athanasiou. Davidson also bolstered the

SETH JONES

bottom six by bringing in UFAs Craig Smith and Pat Maroon and re-signing Joey Anderson.

>DEFENSE

Seth Jones is one of the league's big minute-munchers, averaging 25:29 last year. Mobile and smart Alex Vlasic, 23, made huge strides in his first full NHL season and was locked up with a six-year, $27.6-million deal. Connor Murphy returns, plus there's more veteran stability with the arrivals of UFAs T.J. Brodie and Alec Martinez. There's also smooth-skating Kevin Korchinski, who has great acceleration and offensive skills. But the 20-year-old needs more seasoning in a structured setting.

>GOALTENDING

Petr Mrazek had a resurgent season in 2023-24. The 32-year-old bounced back from two years of debilitating core injuries to play a career-high 56 games with a 3.05 goals-against average and .907 save percentage. He was rewarded with a two-year, $8.5-million contract. Mrazek will have a capable backup, as Laurent Brossoit inked a two-year, $6.6-million pact after being the No. 2 to Connor Hellebuyck in Winnipeg. Brossoit's arrival allows 25-year-old Arvid Soderblom, who was overwhelmed in the NHL last year, a chance to work on his game in AHL Rockford.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Led by right-shot Bedard, Chicago will have better options on the power play with lefties Teravainen and Bertuzzi. Bedard topped rookies with 206 shots last season but has shown he can dish as well as snipe with his sneaky release. Teravainen is slick on the man advantage, while Bertuzzi can drive to the net. From the point, Jones must shoot more consistently. Vlasic has good wheels, but he needs to hit the net when shooting the puck. The penalty kill could be a bright spot, led by Dickinson and Anderson.

>INTANGIBLES

There's no shortage of passionate leadership from Foligno. At 36, he rebounded with more ice time (17:46) and answered the call with 17 goals and 37 points on a team that desperately needed him. No one wore the 'C' in Chicago last season following Jonathan Toews' departure, but Foligno served as the de facto captain.

CUP ODDS

80/1

>ROOKIES

Chicago signed defenseman Artyom Levshunov, the No. 2 pick in the 2024 draft. Fast and strong as a freshman at Michigan State last year, the 6-foot-2, 208-pounder will have a chance to show what he can do in training camp. More likely candidates on the blueline, however, are Ethan Del Mastro, Wyatt Kaiser and Nolan Allan. Speedy center Frank Nazar scored in his first NHL game last April after completing his sophomore NCAA year with Michigan, and Landon Slaggert was solid after joining from Notre Dame.

>X-FACTOR

Two key questions to consider: how much will Bedard improve with better linemates and depth around him? And how will Lukas Reichel, a 2020 first-rounder, respond after he struggled in the NHL last year and was sent to the minors?

>THE BRASS

Chairman and CEO Danny Wirtz has asserted himself as the fourth-generation family boss of the franchise. Davidson, the league's youngest GM at 36, is showing he can guide the Hawks both with talent acquisition and salary management.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Taylor Hall	1. Connor Bedard	1. Teuvo Teravainen
2. Tyler Bertuzzi	2. Jason Dickinson	2. Philipp Kurashev
3. Ilya Mikheyev	3. Nick Foligno	3. Andreas Athanasiou
4. Ryan Donato	4. Lukas Reichel	4. Craig Smith
5. Pat Maroon	5. Frank Nazar	5. Joey Anderson

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Seth Jones	6. Alec Martinez	1. Petr Mrazek
2. Alex Vlasic	7. Ethan Del Mastro	2. Laurent Brossoit
3. Kevin Korchinski	8. Wyatt Kaiser	3. Arvid Soderblom
4. T.J. Brodie	9. Nolan Allan	
5. Connor Murphy	10. Isaak Phillips	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Tyler Johnson, C; Colin Blackwell, C; Taylor Raddysh, RW; MacKenzie Entwistle, RW; Reese Johnson, C; Jarred Tinordi, D; Jaycob Megna, D

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Artyom Levshunov
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Poise with puck on offense. Strong and stable on defense. Nearly good enough for NHL duty already.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Oliver Moore
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Minnesota (Big Ten)
Speed to burn and plenty of offensive tools. Projects as pass-first producer at highest levels.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Sacha Boisvert
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Muskegon (USHL)
Highlights of all-around game are speed, passing and active stick. Committed to North Dakota.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Frank Nazar
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Michigan (Big Ten)
Does the little things to create time and space. Had three-game NHL cameo at end of last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

5. Marek Vanacker
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Brantford (OHL)
Plays with pace, and work ethic is apparent. Shot power and release are hallmarks of his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Adam Gajan
Pos G **Age** 20
2023-24 Green Bay (USHL)
Impressed in consecutive WJC showings. Uses mobility and flexibility to cover space in a hurry.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Sam Rinzel
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Minnesota (Big Ten)
Slight, rangy 6-foot-4 defender uses stick to break up plays, but he could be more physical.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Colton Dach
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Rockford (AHL)
Adjusted well to AHL in rookie pro season. Excellent shot and makes good use of his big frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Ilya Safonov
Pos C **Age** 23
2023-24 Kazan (KHL)
Production dipped, but valuable middle-six piece has grown into leadership role with KHL club.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. John Mustard
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Waterloo (USHL)
Goes to high-danger areas, whether it's around or through defenders. Has lacked consistency.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
80 80 Bedard	
60 58 Teravainen	
49 Hall	
46 Bertuzzi	
40 38 Kurashev	
37 Athanasiou	
37 Reichel	
	Jones 36
33 Dickinson	
32 Foligno	
30 Donato	Korchinski 30
30 Mikheyev	
26 Smith	
23 Nazar	
20	Brodie 19
18 Anderson	Vlasic 18
15 Maroon	
	Murphy 14
	Martinez 13
	Kaiser 12
	Phillips 5
0	

SCHEDULE

Tue, Oct 8	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 11	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs San Jose	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Vancouver	8:15 PM
Fri, Oct 25	vs Nashville	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 6	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 10	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	vs Anaheim	8:30 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Florida	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Dallas	8:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Sun, Dec 1	vs Columbus	3:00 PM
Mon, Dec 2	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 4	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Winnipeg	4:00 PM
Mon, Dec 9	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	vs NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs Washington	8:30 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Seattle	8:30 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Calgary	4:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Dallas	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs St. Louis*	5:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	vs NY Rangers	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 10	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 13	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Carolina	8:30 PM
Fri, Jan 24	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Sun, Jan 26	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Wed, Feb 5	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Fri, Feb 7	vs Nashville	8:30 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	vs Los Angeles	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 5	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 7	vs Utah	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 10	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs Seattle	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Los Angeles	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ St. Louis	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Philadelphia	3:00 PM
Wed, Mar 26	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 28	vs Vegas	8:30 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs Utah	4:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	vs Colorado	9:30 PM
Fri, Apr 4	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM

*Winter Classic

PHOTO BY MSU ATHLETICS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Dominic Basse	23	6-6	179	Left	Alexandria, Va.	167th overall (2019)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	25	12-10-2	2.75	.896
Laurent Brossoit	31	6-3	203	Left	Port Alberni, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Winnipeg	23	15-5-2	2.00	.927
Drew Commesso	22	6-2	180	Left	Norwell, Mass.	46th overall (2020)	Rockford (AHL)	38	18-16-4	2.65	.906
Adam Gajan	20	6-3	167	Left	Poprad, Svk.	35th overall (2023)	Green Bay (USHL)	43	23-12-4	3.35	.893
Petr Mrazek	32	6-2	188	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	Trade: Tor 7/7/22	Chicago	56	18-31-4	3.05	.908
Arvid Soderblom	25	6-3	180	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 5/17/21	Chicago	32	5-22-2	3.92	.880

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nolan Allan	21	6-2	195	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	32nd overall (2021)	Rockford (AHL)	60	5	12	17	47
T.J. Brodie	34	6-2	187	Left	Chatham, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto	78	1	25	26	40
Louis Crevier	23	6-8	228	Right	Quebec City, Que.	188th overall (2020)	Rockford (AHL)	41	3	8	11	18
Ethan Del Mastro	21	6-4	210	Left	Burlington, Ont.	105th overall (2021)	Rockford (AHL)	69	7	30	37	54
Taige Harding	22	6-6	235	Left	Glasgow, Gbr.	91st overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	34	2	6	8	12
Ty Henry	18	6-2	197	Left	Montreal, Que.	163rd overall (2024)	Erie (OHL)	54	0	7	7	44
Seth Jones	29	6-4	213	Right	Arlington, Texas	Trade: Clb 7/23/21	Chicago	67	8	23	31	34
Wyatt Kaiser	22	6-0	173	Left	Andover, Minn.	81st overall (2020)	Rockford (AHL)	37	4	14	18	46
Connor Kelley	22	6-1	190	Right	Maple Grove, Minn.	204th overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	34	1	11	12	12
Kevin Korchinski	20	6-1	185	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	7th overall (2022)	Chicago	76	5	10	15	20
Artyom Levshunov	18	6-2	208	Right	Zhlobin, Blr.	2nd overall (2024)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	38	9	26	35	44
Alec Martinez	37	6-1	210	Left	Rochester Hills, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vegas	55	4	13	17	6
Connor Murphy	31	6-4	212	Right	Dublin, Ohio	Trade: Ari 6/23/17	Chicago	46	2	6	8	40
Janne Peltonen	19	6-3	174	Left	Oulu, Fin.	195th overall (2023)	Karpat Jr. (Fin.)	46	6	9	15	47
Isaak Phillips	23	6-3	205	Left	Barrie, Ont.	141st overall (2020)	Chicago	33	0	6	6	22
Sam Rinzel	20	6-4	177	Right	Chanhassen, Minn.	25th overall (2022)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	2	26	28	20
Alex Vlasic	23	6-6	217	Left	Wilmette, Ill.	43rd overall (2019)	Chicago	76	2	14	16	45

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Andreas Athanasiou	30	6-2	190	Left	Woodbridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Chicago	28	2	7	9	7
Connor Bedard	19	5-10	185	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	1st overall (2023)	Chicago	68	22	39	61	28
Sacha Boisvert	18	6-2	176	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	18th overall (2024)	Muskegon (USHL)	61	36	32	68	86
Colton Dach	21	6-4	196	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	62nd overall (2021)	Rockford (AHL)	48	11	16	27	39
Jason Dickinson	29	6-2	200	Left	Georgetown, Ont.	Trade: Van 10/7/22	Chicago	82	22	13	35	43
Ryan Donato	28	6-0	190	Left	Boston, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Chicago	78	12	18	30	26
Jiri Felcman	19	6-4	198	Left	Hradec Kralove, Cze.	93rd overall (2023)	Langnau Jr. (Sui.)	26	8	15	23	12
Liam Gorman	24	6-2	188	Left	Boston, Mass.	Trade: Pit 7/8/22	UMass (HE)	28	1	3	4	17
Ryan Greene	20	6-1	174	Right	St. John's, Nfld.	57th overall (2022)	Boston University (HE)	40	12	24	36	6
Cole Guttman	25	5-9	167	Right	Northridge, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 8/18/22	Rockford (AHL)	39	16	24	40	30
Dominic James	22	5-9	148	Left	Plymouth, Mich.	173rd overall (2022)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	2	0	1	1	0
Philipp Kurashev	24	6-0	190	Left	Munsingen, Sui.	120th overall (2018)	Chicago	75	18	36	54	23
Paul Ludwinski	20	5-11	172	Left	Toronto, Ont.	39th overall (2022)	Kingston (OHL)	60	23	46	69	27
Jalen Luypen	22	5-10	155	Left	Kelowna, B.C.	216th overall (2021)	Rockford (AHL)	64	4	16	20	37
Oliver Moore	19	5-11	188	Left	Mounds View, Minn.	19th overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	9	24	33	8
John Mustard	18	6-1	180	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	67th overall (2024)	Waterloo (USHL)	60	29	27	56	71
Frank Nazar	20	5-9	175	Right	Detroit, Mich.	13th overall (2022)	Michigan (Big Ten)	41	17	24	41	18
Milton Oscarson	21	6-6	216	Left	Kumla, Swe.	167th overall (2023)	Orebro (Swe.)	51	4	5	9	6
Alex Pharand	19	6-3	198	Right	Chelmsford, Ont.	99th overall (2023)	Sudbury (OHL)	68	17	13	30	38
Antti Saarela	23	5-11	183	Left	Laitila, Fin.	123rd overall (2019)	Rockford (AHL)	27	5	1	6	11
Ilya Safonov	23	6-4	205	Left	Moscow, Rus.	172nd overall (2021)	Kazan (KHL)	67	13	7	20	20
Craig Smith	35	6-1	203	Right	Madison, Wis.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Dallas	75	11	9	20	33
Victor Stjernborg	21	5-10	202	Left	Malmo, Swe.	108th overall (2021)	Vaxjo (Swe.)	46	6	12	18	20
Joel Svensson	19	6-1	185	Right	Oskarshamn, Swe.	138th overall (2024)	Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)	25	24	9	33	8
Aidan Thompson	22	5-11	180	Left	Fort Collins, Colo.	90th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	44	11	19	30	35
Riku Tohila	20	6-5	190	Right	Kalajoki, Fin.	199th overall (2022)	JYP (Fin.)	39	1	1	2	12

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tyler Bertuzzi	29	6-2	200	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto	80	21	22	43	53
Nick Foligno	36	6-0	210	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Trade: Bos 6/26/23	Chicago	74	17	20	37	57
Parker Foo	26	6-1	171	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	144th overall (2017)	Kunlun (KHL)	53	10	14	24	14
Taylor Hall	32	6-1	210	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Bos 6/26/23	Chicago	10	2	2	4	4
Gavin Hayes	20	6-1	177	Right	Ypsilanti, Mich.	66th overall (2022)	Flint/Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	55	37	39	76	20
Nick Lardis	19	5-11	165	Left	Oakville, Ont.	67th overall (2023)	Brantford (OHL)	37	29	21	50	12
Marcel Marcel	20	6-4	242	Left	Plzen, Cze.	131st overall (2023)	Rockford (AHL)	26	0	5	5	4
Pat Maroon	36	6-3	234	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Minnesota/Boston	51	4	12	16	60
Lukas Reichel	22	6-0	170	Left	Nuremberg, Ger.	17th overall (2020)	Chicago	65	5	11	16	12
Zach Sanford	29	6-4	206	Left	Salem, Mass.	Waivers: Ari 1/6/24	Arizona/Chicago	29	0	6	6	6
Samuel Savoie	20	5-10	189	Left	Dieppe, N.B.	81st overall (2022)	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)	21	10	12	22	23
Brett Seney	28	5-9	156	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Rockford (AHL)	68	23	40	63	60
Landon Slaggert	22	6-0	180	Left	South Bend, Ind.	79th overall (2020)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	36	20	11	31	10
Teuvo Teravainen	30	5-11	191	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	76	25	28	53	10
Marek Vanacker	18	6-1	174	Left	London, Ont.	27th overall (2024)	Brantford (OHL)	68	36	46	82	55

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Joey Anderson	26	6-0	207	Right	Roseville, Minn.	Trade: Tor 2/27/23	Chicago	55	5	12	17	8
Nils Juntorp	20	6-0	170	Right	Ulricehamn, Swe.	188th overall (2022)	Kristianstad (Swe.3)	36	6	10	16	33
Roman Kantserov	20	5-9	176	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	44th overall (2023)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	53	8	7	15	10
Ilya Mikheyev	29	6-2	192	Left	Omsk, Rus.	Trade: Van 6/26/24	Vancouver	78	11	20	31	4
Martin Misiak	20	6-2	194	Left	Banska Bystrica, Svk.	55th overall (2023)	Erie (OHL)	60	23	24	47	33
Jack Pridham	18	6-1	176	Right	Stouffville, Ont.	92nd overall (2024)	West Kelowna (BCHL)	54	23	26	49	30
Ryder Rolston	22	6-1	175	Right	Boston, Mass.	Trade: Col 4/12/21	Rockford (AHL)	62	10	9	19	4
AJ Spellacy	18	6-2	195	Right	Cleveland, Ohio	72nd overall (2024)	Windsor (OHL)	67	21	17	38	59

COLORADO AVALANCHE

NATHAN MACKINNON

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JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
50-25-7 (.652)

OVERTIME
6-5

SHOOTOUT
2-2

OVERALL
8th

OFFENSE
3.68 (1st)

DEFENSE
3.07 (17th)

POWER PLAY
24.5% (5th)

PENALTY KILL
79.9% (12th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.68 (10th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.50 (12th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Rantanen (22:54)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. Makar (24:46)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jared Bednar

GM
Chris MacFarland

ARENA
Ball Arena

CAPACITY
18,007

AHL AFFILIATE
Colorado Eagles

ECHL AFFILIATE
Utah Grizzlies

PLAYOFF RECORD
38-22 (since 2020)

BY COREY MASISAK

IT WAS FRAMED AS a Stanley Cup-or-bust season from the opening day of training camp. It went bust in what felt like a blink of an eye.

The Avalanche spent most of 2023-24 as a no-doubt Cup contender. Valeri Nichushkin's suspension in the hours before a critical Game 4 in the second round against Dallas ended that. Colorado nearly dragged the Stars into a winner-take-all seventh game, but former Avs center Matt Duchene scored the series-clinching goal in double overtime of Game 6.

Colorado's core remains elite, but two huge questions will define 2024-25 and possibly beyond. Will captain Gabriel Landeskog finally come back from a knee injury that has cost him two full seasons? Will Nichushkin make the life changes he needs while in Stage 3 of the NHL/NHLPA player assistance program? Both players are total wild cards – and under contract through at least 2029.

>OFFENSE

The Avalanche scored the most goals in the regular season and fired 24 pucks past Vezina Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck in five games of a first-round rout. Nathan MacKinnon hit 50 goals for the first time and set a franchise record for points (140) en route to his first Hart Trophy. Cale Makar established a new franchise mark for points by a defenseman (90) for a second time in three seasons. Mikko Rantanen reached 100 points for the second straight season. Jonathan Drouin set a career high with 56 points, then returned on a team-friendly one-year deal. If even one of Landeskog or Nichushkin is close to his old self, the Colorado offense will again be terrifying.

CALE MAKAR

DEFENSE

Nichushkin and Artturi Lehkonen are two of the NHL's best two-way wingers. And Drouin was one of the best stories in the league last year, not only because of his offense but how he evolved into a trusted 200-foot player as well. The Avalanche like to play defense before the puck reaches their own end, either by keeping it or by killing transition plays before they develop. Makar's speed, positioning and stick are key in snuffing out opposition attacks, while Devon Toews is one of the league's best defensive defensemen. Samuel Girard and Josh Manson played well together last season. Trading Bowen Byram and then losing his replacement (Sean Walker) could hurt, but the Avs found some intriguing bargains to shore up the depth beyond the top six on the blueline.

GOALTENDING

Alexandar Georgiev had a rough finish to the regular season and then yielded seven goals in Game 1 of the playoffs against Winnipeg. Had Justus Annunen not been sick, he might've started Game 2. Instead, Georgiev authored a remarkable turnaround and further won over his coach and teammates. A full year with Annunen as his backup should give Georgiev more rest in the regular season, but he wants the net, and coach Jared Bednar doesn't mind giving him a heavy workload.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Drouin made a big impact from the bumper position on the PP. Nichushkin would've given Edmonton's Zach Hyman a run for best net-front presence had he not missed time in Stage 2 of the player assistance program. MacKinnon, Makar and Rantanen make any configuration of the top PP unit scary. Colorado's penalty kill was improved last season, finishing just outside the league's top 10, up from 17th in 2022-23.

INTANGIBLES

The Avs lost significant leadership when Andrew Cogliano and Zach Parise retired and Jack Johnson signed with Columbus. If Landeskog can play, the Avalanche will get back one of the best leaders in professional sports. Landeskog is a guy who even superstars such as MacKinnon and Makar look up to. And the return of Logan O'Connor, a younger heart-and-soul guy in the making, after season-ending hip surgery will also be a boost.

CUP ODDS

15/1

ROOKIES

Right winger Nikolai Kovalenko made his NHL debut in the playoffs. He could be a bowling ball of chaos in the bottom six. Sam Malinski showed well in a small sample size last year and will battle newcomers Calvin de Haan and Erik Brannstrom for a spot on the third 'D' pairing.

X-FACTOR

Nichushkin is suspended until at least mid-November, while Landeskog's timeline is TBD. If both return reasonably close to their previous form, the Avs will be a Stanley Cup favorite by April. If one comes back, they'll be a very good team. But if neither returns, the Avs will need to scramble to replace them or it will be a "gap year" before another reload for 2025-26.

THE BRASS

Bednar likes to lean on his top players, which might be especially necessary early in the year. GM Chris MacFarland has proven he's not afraid to cash in future chips to help a title run right now, though the war chest is a little light after years of going for it.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Gabriel Landeskog	1. Nathan MacKinnon	1. Mikko Rantanen
2. Artturi Lehkonen	2. Casey Mittelstadt	2. Valeri Nichushkin
3. Jonathan Drouin	3. Ross Colton	3. Logan O'Connor
4. Miles Wood	4. Chris Wagner	4. Nikolai Kovalenko
5. Parker Kelly	5. Jean-Luc Foudy	5. Joel Kiviranta

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Cale Makar	6. Erik Brannstrom	1. Alexandar Georgiev
2. Devon Toews	7. Calvin de Haan	2. Justus Annunen
3. Samuel Girard	8. Sam Malinski	3. Trent Miner
4. Josh Manson	9. Jacob MacDonald	
5. Oliver Kylington	10. Calle Rosen	

INJURED SUSPENDED
INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Sean Walker, D; Zach Parise, LW; Andrew Cogliano, C; Jack Johnson, D; Fredrik Olofsson, LW; Caleb Jones, D; Brandon Duhaime, RW; Yakov Trenin, C; Ivan Prosvetov, G

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Calum Ritchie
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Oshawa (OHL)
Can find twine, but he is better at finding teammates. His 200-foot game is starting to round out.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Mikhail Gulyayev
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Omsk (KHL)
Turns defense into offense. Strong skating stride and great edges. One season left on KHL pact.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Ilya Nabokov
Pos G **Age** 21
2023-24 Magnitogorsk (KHL)
Athletic stopper led KHL club to title and earned MVP honors in his first full pro season.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Nikolai Kovalenko
Pos RW **Age** 24
2023-24 Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)
Late-bloomer was top-20 scorer in KHL over past two seasons and can play a role as pest, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

5. Sam Malinski
Pos D **Age** 26
2023-24 Colorado (AHL)
Undrafted blueliner made smooth transition to AHL but is adjusting to strength of pro players.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. William Zellers
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Shattuck (USHS)
Lethal Shattuck scorer is committed to North Dakota. His 57 goals led all prep-school players.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Jean-Luc Foudy
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Colorado (AHL)
Injuries hampered development. Shifty scorer will hit the ice with plenty to prove this season.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Sean Behrens
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Denver (NCHC)
Clever defender is able to maneuver out of trouble. He'll be given time to marinate in AHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Justus Annunen
Pos G **Age** 24
2023-24 Colorado (AHL)
Posted best numbers among Avs goalies in spot duty as starter. Possible challenger for No. 1 job.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

10. Oskar Olausson
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Colorado (AHL)
Still looking for the next gear offensively in pro game. Effort is there to earn NHL minutes.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	124 MacKinnon 105 Rantanen	
		Makar 95
80		
60		
	57 Mittelstadt	
		Toews 50
	49 Lehkonen 48 Nichushkin 48 Landeskog	
40	41 Drouin 38 Colton	
	32 Kovalenko	
		Kylington 27
	26 O'Connor	Girard 26
	25 Wood	
20		
		Manson 19
		Brannstrom 16
	14 Kelly	
	12 Kiviranta	
		Malinski 9 de Haan 8
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Columbus	9:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	vs Boston	9:30 PM
Fri, Oct 18	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Sun, Oct 20	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Seattle	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 16	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	vs Florida	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Dallas	4:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Minnesota	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 22	vs Winnipeg	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 31	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs Philadelphia	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 7	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Nashville	6:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ St. Louis	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 26	vs New Jersey	9:30 PM
Fri, Feb 28	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	vs San Jose	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 10	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	vs Dallas	3:30 PM
Wed, Mar 19	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs St. Louis	4:30 PM
Mon, Mar 31	vs Calgary	8:30 PM
Wed, Apr 2	@ Chicago	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Columbus	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM

KALVIN TAYLOR/GOODALL MEDIA

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

COLORADO AVALANCHE

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Justus Annunen	24	6-4	210	Left	Kempele, Fin.	64th overall (2018)	Colorado (AHL)	23	14-5-4	2.65	.908
Louka Cloutier	18	6-2	168	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	132nd overall (2024)	Chicago (USHL)	34	14-14-2	3.68	.904
Alexandar Georgiev	28	6-1	178	Left	Ruse, Blr.	Trade: NYR 7/7/22	Colorado	63	38-18-5	3.02	.897
Kevin Mandolese	24	6-4	180	Left	Blainville, Que.	Trade: Ott 7/15/24	Belleville (AHL)	23	10-9-2	3.07	.901
Trent Miner	23	6-1	185	Left	Brandon, Man.	202nd overall (2019)	Colorado (AHL)	18	9-6-1	2.10	.930
Ilya Nabokov	21	6-0	179	Left	Kasli, Rus.	38th overall (2024)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	43	23-13-3	2.15	.930
Shamil Shmakov	25	6-6	194	Left	Moscow, Rus.	202nd overall (2018)	Dynamo St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	1	0-1-0	6.51	.800
Ivan Yunin	18	6-2	196	Left	Omsk, Rus.	137th overall (2024)	Omsk Jr. (Rus.)	20	16-2-0	1.31	.952

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Wyatt Aamodt	26	6-0	201	Left	Hermantown, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/12/22	Colorado (AHL)	60	6	8	14	49
Jack Ahcan	27	5-8	180	Left	Savage, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Colorado (AHL)	70	6	32	38	51
Sean Behrens	21	5-10	177	Left	Barrington, Ill.	61st overall (2021)	Denver (NCHC)	44	4	27	31	5
Erik Brannstrom	25	5-10	185	Left	Eksjo, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Ottawa	76	3	17	20	36
Calvin de Haan	33	6-1	192	Left	Carp, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Tampa Bay	59	3	7	10	22
Samuel Girard	26	5-10	170	Left	Roberval, Que.	Trade: Nsh 11/5/17	Colorado	59	3	15	18	10
Mikhail Gulyayev	19	5-10	172	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	31st overall (2023)	Omsk (KHL)	64	4	8	12	8
Nikita Ishimnikov	19	6-3	194	Right	Snezhinsk, Rus.	155th overall (2023)	Verkhnyaya Pyshma (Rus.2)	39	0	2	2	8
Oliver Kylington	27	6-0	183	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 8/5/24	Calgary	33	3	5	8	12
Jacob MacDonald	31	6-0	204	Left	Portland, Ore.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Jose	34	7	2	9	23
Cale Makar	25	6-0	187	Right	Calgary, Alta.	4th overall (2017)	Colorado	77	21	69	90	16
Sam Malinski	26	5-11	190	Right	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/30/23	Colorado (AHL)	46	5	22	27	20
Josh Manson	32	6-3	218	Right	Hinsdale, Ill.	Trade: Ana 3/14/22	Colorado	76	8	17	25	87
Keaton Middleton	26	6-6	240	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/30/21	Colorado (AHL)	71	6	9	15	136
Tory Pitner	18	6-1	180	Right	Greenwich, Conn.	185th overall (2024)	Youngstown (USHL)	50	8	16	24	56
Chris Romaine	20	6-0	190	Right	Boston, Mass.	193rd overall (2022)	Green Bay (USHL)	55	6	24	30	24
Calle Rosen	30	6-1	188	Left	Vaxjo, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Springfield (AHL)	68	2	31	33	14
Devon Toews	30	6-1	191	Left	Abbotsford, B.C.	Trade: NYI 10/12/20	Colorado	82	12	38	50	18
Saige Weinstein	19	6-1	185	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 10/6/23	Spokane (WHL)	63	10	15	25	62

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Colby Ambrosio	22	5-9	170	Right	Welland, Ont.	118th overall (2020)	Boston College (HE)	40	2	6	8	10
Zakhar Bardakov	23	6-2	198	Left	Berdsk, Rus.	Trade: NJ 3/1/24	St. Petersburg (KHL)	51	6	6	12	78
Andrei Buyalsky	24	6-3	178	Left	Karaganda, Kaz.	92nd overall (2021)	Vermont (HE)	25	3	8	11	8
Ross Colton	28	6-0	194	Left	Robbinsville, N.J.	Trade: TB 6/28/23	Colorado	80	17	23	40	61
Maxmilian Curran	18	6-3	179	Left	Prague, Cze.	161st overall (2024)	Tri-City (WHL)	40	5	27	32	25
Jake Fisher	19	6-2	190	Left	Woodbury, Minn.	121st overall (2024)	Fargo (USHL)	51	23	24	47	6
Jean-Luc Foudy	22	5-11	177	Right	Scarborough, Ont.	75th overall (2020)	Colorado (AHL)	26	4	10	14	18
Christian Humphreys	18	5-11	170	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	215th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	52	23	35	58	22
Ivan Ivan	22	6-0	190	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/5/24	Colorado (AHL)	67	12	19	31	20
Maros Jedlicka	21	6-2	194	Left	Trnava, Svk.	219th overall (2023)	Zvolen (Svk.)	-	-	DNP	-	-
Nathan MacKinnon	29	6-0	200	Right	Halifax, N.S.	1st overall (2013)	Colorado	82	51	89	140	42
Casey Mittelstadt	25	6-1	195	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Trade: Buf 3/6/24	Buffalo/Colorado	80	18	39	57	32
Ondrej Pavel	24	6-2	205	Left	Prague, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/30/23	Colorado (AHL)	61	6	4	10	37
Nikita Prishchepov	20	6-1	194	Left	Orenburg, Rus.	217th overall (2024)	Victoriaville (QMJHL)	63	22	45	67	70
Calum Ritchie	19	6-2	185	Right	Oakville, Ont.	27th overall (2023)	Oshawa (OHL)	50	28	52	80	20
Matt Stienburg	23	6-1	182	Right	Halifax, N.S.	63rd overall (2019)	Colorado (AHL)	54	5	8	13	63
T.J. Tynan	32	5-8	160	Right	Orland Park, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Ontario (AHL)	71	9	57	66	68

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Chase Bradley	22	5-11	180	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Connecticut (HE)	31	11	11	22	53
Jonathan Drouin	29	5-11	198	Left	Ste-Agathe, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Colorado	79	19	37	56	28
Jere Innala	26	5-9	183	Left	Hauho, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 6/13/24	Frolunda (Swe.)	42	16	12	28	14
Parker Kelly	25	6-1	185	Left	Camrose, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Ottawa	80	8	10	18	30
Joel Kiviranta	28	5-11	185	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 11/12/23	Colorado	56	3	6	9	12
Gabriel Landeskog	31	6-1	215	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	2nd overall (2011)	Colorado	-	-	DNP	-	-
Artturi Lehkonen	29	5-11	179	Left	Piikkio, Fin.	Trade: Mtl 3/21/22	Colorado	45	16	18	34	14
Taylor Makar	23	6-3	190	Left	Calgary, Alta.	220th overall (2021)	UMass (HE)	36	4	5	9	22
Sampo Ranta	24	6-2	195	Left	Naantali, Fin.	78th overall (2018)	Modo (Swe.)	50	17	14	31	10
Miles Wood	29	6-2	195	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Colorado	74	9	17	26	75
William Zellers	18	5-10	163	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	76th overall (2024)	Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)	54	57	54	111	26

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nikolai Kovalenko	24	5-10	180	Left	Raleigh, N.C.	171st overall (2018)	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	42	11	24	35	30
Valeri Nichushkin	29	6-4	210	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 8/19/19	Colorado	54	28	25	53	22
Logan O'Connor	28	6-0	175	Right	Missouri City, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/23/18	Colorado	57	13	12	25	34
Oskar Olausson	21	6-1	180	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	28th overall (2021)	Colorado (AHL)	39	11	9	20	24
Jason Polin	25	6-0	198	Right	Holt, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 3/29/23	Colorado (AHL)	42	4	6	10	21
Mikko Rantanen	27	6-4	215	Left	Nousiainen, Fin.	10th overall (2015)	Colorado	80	42	62	104	50
Chris Wagner	33	6-0	192	Right	Walpole, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Colorado (AHL)	21	8	6	14	20

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

JOHNNY GAUDREAU

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BY BRIAN HEDGER

AFTER YET ANOTHER SUMMER of change, the Blue Jackets head into a new season with the most likely outcome being a fifth straight year without a playoff berth.

There were seismic shifts in Columbus, beginning with the hiring of former Carolina GM Don Waddell to replace both president of hockey ops John Davidson and GM Jarmo Kekalainen. Waddell fired coach Pascal Vincent, traded Alexandre Texier, bought out Adam Boqvist and left Jake Bean without a qualifying offer. He also juggled a raft of free agents and hired a new coach in Dean Evason, who faces a big cleanup. And Waddell still must deal with Patrik Laine's trade request made while he was still in the NHL/NHLPA player assistance program. The team also added UFAs Sean Monahan and Jack Johnson.

OFFENSE

The Blue Jackets only had Laine for 18 games due to two long-term injuries and his entry into the NHL/NHLPA program. His absence created a huge void, but Columbus still boosted its scoring rate from 2.60 goals per game in 2022-23 (30th in the NHL) to 2.85 (24th) under Vincent – who was forced into the coaching role by Mike Babcock's pre-season resignation. Johnny Gaudreau's numbers have plummeted since inking a seven-year deal in July 2022, and it took Zach Werenski most of last season to shake off the rust from shoulder surgery and become a goal-scoring defenseman again. Adding Monahan, Gaudreau's former linemate in Calgary, could spark a rebound for Gaudreau. The Blue Jackets also have a core group of maturing forwards – starting with Adam Fantilli, Kent Johnson, Cole Sillinger and Kirill Marchenko – several of whom could produce breakout seasons.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
27-43-12 (.402)

OVERTIME
3-10

SHOOTOUT
3-2

OVERALL
29th

OFFENSE
2.85 GPG (24th)

DEFENSE
3.63 GAA (31st)

POWER PLAY
15.1% (31st)

PENALTY KILL
76.3% (26th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.53 (19th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.95 (31st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
B. Jenner (20:06)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
Z. Werenski (24:27)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Dean Evason

GM
Don Waddell

ARENA
Nationwide Arena

CAPACITY
18,144

AHL AFFILIATE
Cleveland Monsters

ECHL AFFILIATE
N/A

PLAYOFF RECORD
4-6 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

ZACH WERENSKI

>DEFENSE

Once again, the Blue Jackets have as many questions as answers after allowing 3.63 goals per game, which was second-worst in the league. Most important is figuring out a consistent partner for Werenski, which Columbus hasn't had since trading Seth Jones to Chicago in 2021. Will it be Damon Severson, the only right-handed veteran with the requisite mobility? Will promising sophomore David Jiricek be forced into a role he's not prepared to handle? Or what about Erik Gudbranson? The odds favor Severson, but he's better suited to a second-pairing role with Ivan Provorov. Look for Jiricek to slot into that spot instead, while Gudbranson shares the third pairing with a combination of Jack Johnson and rookies.

>GOALTENDING

Assuming Elvis Merzlikins and Daniil Tarasov can stay healthy, they'll again be the Jackets' tandem. Tarasov is experienced enough to challenge Merzlikins for the starting role, while Merzlikins has more to prove after taking small steps forward last season. He has three years left on a contract with a $5.4-million annual charge against the salary cap and hasn't played up to that level. Jet Greaves continues to impress with AHL Cleveland.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Since joining the league, the Blue Jackets have finished in the NHL's top 10 on the power play just once in 23 seasons. They've finished in the top 15 on five occasions, most recently 12th in 2016-17, and have only ranked in the top 25 once in the past seven years. Last season, they sputtered to 31st overall with a listless 15.1-percent efficiency. Laine's absence created a void, but putting him and Gaudreau together wasn't working anyway. The hope is that adding Monahan may spark Gaudreau, but it remains a safer bet to keep expectations low. On the penalty kill, Columbus traded Texier, one of its top PK forwards, from a roster that finished at just 76.3 percent.

>INTANGIBLES

The Jackets cited "culture" as a reason Vincent was fired. Vincent, however, did most of the things former coach Brad Larsen was alleged not to have done enough, such as establishing accountability via ice time. And yet the "country club" tag persisted. That makes the Columbus "culture" issue feel more like a roster failure than a coaching problem. But that's now a headache for Evason – the Blue Jackets' fourth coach since April 2023 – to solve.

CUP ODDS

90/1

>ROOKIES

There's no Fantilli equivalent this year in Columbus. Cayden Lindstrom, drafted fourth overall in June, will likely return to WHL Medicine Hat. Forwards James Malatesta and Luca Del Bel Belluz and blueliners Denton Mateychuk and Stanislav Svozil will push for NHL work.

>X-FACTOR

The only way the Blue Jackets could surprise is if Gaudreau rebounds, the defense plays better than expected and multiple young forwards enjoy breakout seasons. Getting Werenski back to top scoring form would also help.

>THE BRASS

It is Waddell's show after Davidson, who fired Kekalainen, accepted a shift into a senior advisory role. Rick Nash, director of player development, has begun transitioning into a more visible role that may lead to a bigger promotion. H

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

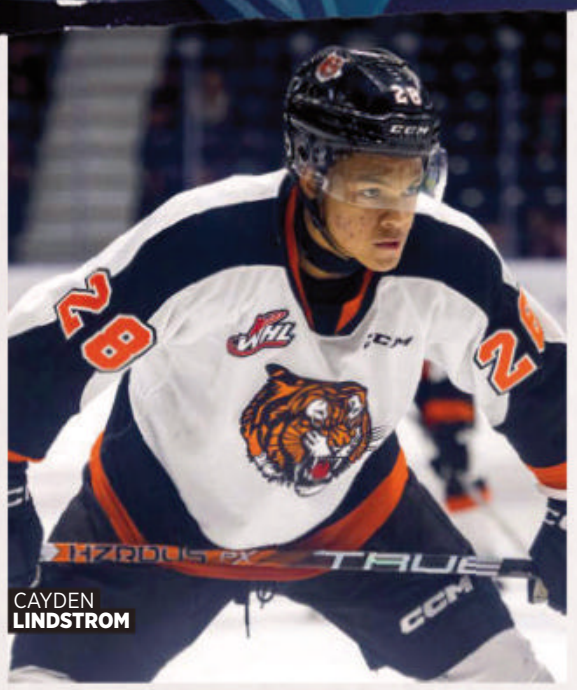
LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Johnny Gaudreau	1. Sean Monahan	1. Patrik Laine
2. Boone Jenner	2. Adam Fantilli	2. Yegor Chinakhov
3. Dmitri Voronkov	3. Cole Sillinger	3. Kirill Marchenko
4. Justin Danforth	4. Sean Kuraly	4. Kent Johnson
5. James Malatesta	5. Luca Del Bel Belluz	5. Mathieu Olivier

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Zach Werenski	6. Denton Mateychuk	1. Elvis Merzlikins
2. Damon Severson	7. Jack Johnson	2. Daniil Tarasov
3. Ivan Provorov	8. Jake Christiansen	3. Jet Greaves
4. David Jiricek	9. Stanislav Svozil	
5. Erik Gudbranson	10. Corson Ceulemans	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Alexandre Texier, C; Jake Bean, D; Adam Boqvist, D; Nick Blankenburg, D; Brendan Gaunce, C; Alex Nylander, LW

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Cayden Lindstrom
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Medicine Hat (WHL)
Throwback power forward punishes opponents physically and on scoresheet. Skates well, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Denton Mateychuk
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Moose Jaw (WHL)
Top WHL blueliner captained Warriors to league crown. Great distributor and power-play QB.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

3. Gavin Brindley
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Michigan (Big Ten)
Skilled, pugnacious and plays bigger than 5-foot-9 frame. Finished in top 10 in NCAA scoring.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Charlie Elick
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Brandon (WHL)
Big, mobile defender uses size to bully oncoming attackers. Likely a shutdown 'D' at top level.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Jordan Dumais
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Halifax (QMJHL)
Excellent at exploiting space. Work on skating has elevated his game – but it can improve more.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Corson Ceulemans
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Cleveland (AHL)
In and out of AHL lineup as he eased into pro game. Makes good use of his body in all three zones.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Stanislav Svozil
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Cleveland (AHL)
Up-and-down AHL year followed two dominant WHL seasons. High upside, but he needs time.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Luca Del Bel Belluz
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Cleveland (AHL)
Can produce in spite of so-so skating ability. Earned a one-game NHL cameo last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Evan Gardner
Pos G **Age** 18
2023-24 Saskatoon (WHL)
Led WHL in GAA and SP in rookie season. Remains calm and composed while moving in crease.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Guillaume Richard
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Providence (HE)
He can chip in on offense, but his calling card is his defensive awareness. Entering senior year.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	75 Gaudreau	
60	60 Monahan	Werenski 56
	54 Fantilli	
	50 Laine	
	48 Jenner	
	45 Sillinger	
	44 Chinakhov	
40	42 K. Johnson	
	37 Marchenko	
		Severson 36
		Mateychuk 32
	30 Voronkov	Provorov 30
	24 Kuraly	
	22 Danforth	Gudbranson 22
		Jiricek 22
20		
	13 Olivier	
		J. Johnson 7
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Washington	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 10	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Calgary	3:00 PM
Sun, Dec 1	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 22	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ Dallas	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Detroit*	TBD
Tue, Mar 4	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 21	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 24	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 28	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Washington	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM

*Stadium Series

RANDY FEERE/MEDICINE HAT TIGERS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Evan Gardner	18	6-0	175	Left	Fort St. John, B.C.	60th overall (2024)	Saskatoon (WHL)	30	21-5-2	1.91	.927
Jet Greaves	23	6-0	184	Left	Cambridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 2/20/22	Cleveland (AHL)	46	30-12-4	2.93	.910
Sergei Ivanov	20	5-11	165	Left	Chernushka, Rus.	138th overall (2022)	St. Pete./Vladivostok (KHL)	36	36-9-18	2.52	.930
Nolan Lalonde	20	6-1	190	Left	Kingston, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/2/22	Erie/Saginaw (OHL)	36	21-8-2	3.31	.869
Elvis Merzlikins	30	6-3	184	Left	Riga, Lat.	76th overall (2014)	Columbus	41	13-17-8	3.45	.897
Zach Sawchenko	26	6-1	185	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/7/24	Abbotsford (AHL)	6	4-1-0	2.12	.924
Melvin Strahl	19	6-3	163	Left	Solleftea, Swe.	156th overall (2023)	Modo Jr. (Swe.)	30	13-15-0	2.91	.903
Daniil Tarasov	25	6-5	201	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	86th overall (2017)	Columbus	24	8-11-3	3.18	.908

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Luke Ashton	19	6-6	231	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	165th overall (2024)	Langley (BCHL)	53	18	18	36	18
Tim Berni	24	6-0	192	Left	Mannedorf, Sui.	159th overall (2018)	Geneve-Servette (Sui.)	41	4	9	13	16
Ole Bjorgvik-Holm	22	6-4	204	Left	Oslo, Nor.	145th overall (2020)	Cincinnati (ECHL)	57	5	28	33	38
Corson Ceulemans	21	6-2	198	Right	Regina, Sask.	25th overall (2021)	Cleveland (AHL)	47	3	9	12	12
Jake Christiansen	25	6-0	193	Left	West Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/4/20	Cleveland (AHL)	62	13	33	46	34
Cole Clayton	24	6-2	209	Right	Strathmore, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	59	5	15	20	31
Charlie Elick	18	6-3	194	Right	Calgary, Alta.	36th overall (2024)	Brandon (WHL)	65	4	23	27	71
Erik Gudbranson	32	6-5	222	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Columbus	78	6	20	26	74
Tanner Henricks	18	6-3	192	Right	Mission Viejo, Calif.	101st overall (2024)	Lincoln (USHL)	59	0	9	9	12
Aidan Hreschuk	21	5-11	188	Left	Long Beach, Calif.	Trade: Car 3/21/22	Boston College (HE)	41	2	13	15	32
David Jiricek	20	6-4	207	Right	Klatovy, Cze.	6th overall (2022)	Columbus	43	1	9	10	22
Jack Johnson	37	6-1	227	Left	Indianapolis, Ind.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Colorado	80	3	13	16	38
Samuel Knazko	22	6-1	198	Left	Trencin, Svk.	78th overall (2020)	Cleveland (AHL)	44	2	10	12	12
Nikolai Makarov	21	6-1	190	Left	Perm, Rus.	132nd overall (2021)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	28	0	2	2	8
Luca Marrelli	18	6-1	181	Right	Toronto, Ont.	86th overall (2024)	Oshawa (OHL)	67	6	51	57	16
Denton Mateychuk	20	5-11	188	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	12th overall (2022)	Moose Jaw (WHL)	52	17	58	75	31
Ivan Provorov	27	6-1	220	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	Trade: Phi 6/6/23	Columbus	82	5	27	32	20
Guillaume Richard	21	6-2	170	Left	Quebec City, Que.	101st overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	35	3	15	18	27
Damon Severson	30	6-2	202	Right	Melville, Sask.	Trade: NJ 6/9/23	Columbus	67	9	19	28	51
Andrew Strathmann	19	5-11	187	Left	Waukegan, Ill.	98th overall (2023)	Youngstown (USHL)	48	7	32	39	120
Stanislav Svozil	21	6-0	183	Left	Prerov, Cze.	69th overall (2021)	Cleveland (AHL)	57	5	18	23	24
Zach Werenski	27	6-2	219	Left	Grosse Pointe, Mich.	8th overall (2015)	Columbus	70	11	46	57	22

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Gavin Brindley	19	5-9	175	Right	Fort Myers, Fla.	34th overall (2023)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	25	28	53	28
Luca Del Bel Belluz	20	6-1	184	Left	Woodbridge, Ont.	44th overall (2022)	Cleveland (AHL)	58	9	22	31	12
Adam Fantilli	19	6-2	194	Left	Nobleton, Ont.	3rd overall (2023)	Columbus	49	12	15	27	16
Dylan Gambrell	28	6-0	190	Right	Bonney Lake, Wash.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Toronto (AHL)	66	14	22	36	16
Boone Jenner	31	6-2	208	Left	Dorchester, Ont.	37th overall (2011)	Columbus	58	22	13	35	28
Kent Johnson	21	6-0	178	Left	Port Moody, B.C.	5th overall (2021)	Columbus	42	6	10	16	10
Oiva Keskinen	20	6-0	180	Left	Ylojarvi, Fin.	194th overall (2023)	Tappara (Fin.)	54	7	20	27	6
Sean Kuraly	31	6-2	215	Left	Niagara Falls, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Columbus	62	9	9	18	40
Cayden Lindstrom	18	6-3	210	Left	Dawson Creek, B.C.	4th overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	32	27	19	46	66
Max McCue	21	6-1	176	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/24	London (OHL)	62	27	34	61	110
Hunter McKown	22	6-1	205	Right	San Jose, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 3/20/23	Cleveland (AHL)	53	9	15	24	26
Sean Monahan	29	6-2	202	Left	Brampton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Montreal/Winnipeg	83	26	33	59	12
Luca Pinelli	19	5-9	165	Left	Stoney Creek, Ont.	114th overall (2023)	Ottawa (OHL)	68	48	34	82	44
Owen Sillinger	27	5-10	183	Left	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	69	11	29	40	66
Cole Sillinger	21	6-1	199	Left	Columbus, Ohio	12th overall (2021)	Columbus	77	13	19	32	46

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Johnny Gaudreau	31	5-9	163	Left	Salem, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Columbus	81	12	48	60	22
Patrik Laine	26	6-5	215	Right	Tampere, Fin.	Trade: Wpg 1/23/21	Columbus	18	6	3	9	6
James Malatesta	21	5-9	191	Left	Montreal, Que.	133rd overall (2021)	Cleveland (AHL)	56	12	10	22	79
Tyler Peddle	19	6-1	195	Left	Halifax, N.S.	224th overall (2023)	Drummondville/Saint John (QMJHL)	65	17	15	32	59
Mikael Pyyhtia	22	6-0	166	Left	Turku, Fin.	114th overall (2020)	Cleveland (AHL)	60	7	21	28	6
Dmitri Voronkov	24	6-5	240	Left	Angarsk, Rus.	114th overall (2019)	Columbus	75	18	16	34	52

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Cameron Butler	22	6-4	210	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/16/23	Cleveland (AHL)	51	2	6	8	71
Yegor Chinakhov	23	6-1	204	Left	Omsk, Rus.	21st overall (2020)	Columbus	53	16	13	29	6
Justin Danforth	31	5-8	188	Right	Oshawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 5/3/21	Columbus	71	10	16	26	26
Kirill Dolzhenkov	20	6-6	234	Left	Moscow, Rus.	109th overall (2022)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	39	4	5	9	17
Jordan Dumais	20	5-8	169	Right	Montreal, Que.	96th overall (2022)	Halifax (QMJHL)	21	16	31	47	6
James Fisher	20	6-2	170	Right	Burlington, Mass.	203rd overall (2022)	Penticton (BCHL)	54	20	16	36	53
Trey Fix-Wolansky	25	5-7	191	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	204th overall (2018)	Cleveland (AHL)	58	26	34	60	48
Kirill Marchenko	24	6-3	195	Right	Barnaul, Rus.	49th overall (2018)	Columbus	78	23	19	42	14
Mathieu Olivier	27	6-1	222	Right	Biloxi, Miss.	Trade: Nsh 6/30/22	Columbus	54	5	7	12	70
Martin Rysavy	21	6-2	225	Left	Prerov, Cze.	197th overall (2021)	Moose Jaw (WHL)	63	25	19	44	36
William Whitelaw	19	5-9	173	Right	Rosemount, Minn.	66th overall (2023)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	37	10	7	17	17

DALLAS STARS

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BY STEPHEN MESERVE

WITH DALLAS MAKING IT to the past two Western Conference finals but coming up short both times, the hunger could not be stronger for the Stars, and the feeling that they are oh-so close to breaking through is palpable. The corresponding excitement and expectations among fans are also notably high.

The Stars chose to stick with the same group of players up front and in net who took them to those conference finals, but they made major changes to the defense corps. It's hard to fault the reigning two-time GM of the Year, Jim Nill, when it comes to team construction, but as it is built today, the blueline is a step back from a unit that boasted Chris Tanev and Ryan Suter, despite the latter's buyout. The expectation is Stanley Cup or bust. With the Central Division becoming a knife fight, Dallas' path to repeat as regular-season conference champion will be that much more difficult.

OFFENSE

The scoring punch that made the Stars the NHL's third-best offense last season is mostly unchanged, with one notable exception: Joe Pavelski. While he regressed in terms of speed in the post-season and decided to retire, he still contributed 67 points in his final season, second-most on the team. The Stars hope to replace that offense with a full year from late-season call-up Logan Stankoven and AHL MVP Mavrik Bourque. Both tore up the minors and are expected to share a line in the NHL to continue their offensive ways. Though he would've been paid handsomely on the open market, Matt Duchene returned

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
52-21-9 (.689)

OVERTIME
8-7

SHOOTOUT
4-2

OVERALL
2nd

OFFENSE
3.59 (3rd)

DEFENSE
2.83 (8th)

POWER PLAY
24.2% (6th)

PENALTY KILL
82.0% (8th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.73 (9th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.22 (2nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Robertson (18:19)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Heiskanen (24:32)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Peter DeBoer

GM
Jim Nill

ARENA
American Airlines Center

CAPACITY
18,532

AHL AFFILIATE
Texas Stars

ECHL AFFILIATE
Idaho Steelheads

PLAYOFF RECORD
37-32 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

JAKE OETTINGER

to the Stars on a team-friendly deal, which is a signal of the player's belief in what is being built in Dallas.

DEFENSE

The blueline is the biggest question mark for Dallas running it back. The Stars would not commit to the term Tanev or many other free agents desired, and they bought out Suter's final year. UFA signees Matt Dumba, Ilya Lyubushkin and Brendan Smith all landed in Texas on July 1, while the infrequently used Nils Lundkvist was re-upped. Dallas perhaps over-indexed on righties to ensure a good pairing for their elite lefty, Miro Heiskanen. With a handful of returnees, new signings and rookie prospects who could occupy a couple of depth spots, the Stars appear content to let training camp and the early season determine the roster, a common team philosophy over the years.

GOALTENDING

The plan in net for the next decade is 25-year-old Jake Oettinger, an elite stopper who any team in the league would love to have. The Stars solved the backup question with a three-year pact for Casey DeSmith after the team committed to an internal cap for the backup role and moved on from the well-liked Scott Wedgewood.

SPECIAL TEAMS

After ranking in the top 10 on both sides of the special-teams ledger in the regular season, the Stars completely fizzled when they needed it most against Edmonton in the playoffs. The Stars scored zero power-play goals, allowed a shorthanded tally and went 63.6 percent on the penalty kill. Steve Spott, who runs the power play, will be looked to for new ideas after the power outage. Can a player such as Stankoven step in for the departed Pavelski? Will Bourque get second-unit PP time? Could Dumba run a second unit with Thomas Harley? There are lots of questions.

INTANGIBLES

The culture in Dallas is immaculate thanks in large part to Pavelski. Dallas took on players such as Duchene and Suter because of his leadership example. Dallas now looks to the post-Joe era with an established hunger in its younger players and a knowledge it's been there before. This season is shaping up to be a significant one in terms of the transition from the Jamie Benn-Tyler Seguin era to a younger core.

CUP ODDS

8/1

ROOKIES

Stankoven – the AHL's rookie of the year last season – and Bourque appear ready to level up. Both have the game to make a significant offensive impact. Sturdy D-man Lian Bichsel may start the season in the AHL but is expected to contribute in the NHL as the season progresses.

X-FACTOR

The defense is the key question in the Stanley Cup push. Dallas did not get better on paper after Tanev left, so there will need to be a surprise performance or in-season moves, including call-ups, to keep the blueline an area of strength – or at least not an area of significant weakness.

THE BRASS

Nill plays a conservative, methodical chess game, allowing prospects to over-ripen and never overpaying in trades. Third-year coach Peter DeBoer has performed as expected, with regular-season success and playoff runs, but he lacks the biggest prize.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jason Robertson	1. Roope Hintz	1. Wyatt Johnston
2. Mason Marchment	2. Tyler Seguin	2. Matt Duchene
3. Jamie Benn	3. Mavrik Bourque	3. Logan Stankoven
4. Evgenii Dadonov	4. Sam Steel	4. Colin Blackwell
5. Matej Blumel	5. Oskar Back	5. Kole Lind

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Miro Heiskanen	6. Brendan Smith	1. Jake Oettinger
2. Thomas Harley	7. Nils Lundkvist	2. Casey DeSmith
3. Esa Lindell	8. Lian Bichsel	3. Remi Poirier
4. Matt Dumba	9. Alexander Petrovic	
5. Ilya Lyubushkin	10. Kyle Capobianco	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Chris Tanev, D; Joe Pavelski, C; Ryan Suter, D; Radek Faksa, C; Craig Smith, C; Ty Dellandrea, C; Jani Hakanpaa, D; Scott Wedgewood, G

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Mavrik Bourque
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Texas (AHL)
Clever, creative playmaker led AHL in scoring. Reads game so well he can play at all strengths.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Lian Bichsel
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Rogle (Swe.)
Started in AHL but left for Sweden early in campaign. Hulking blue-liner can hammer the puck.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

3. Emil Hemming
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 TPS (Fin.)
Sharpshooting winger not afraid to drive inside. Consistency will help him reach potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Christian Kyrou
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Texas (AHL)
At his best, he's a one-man zone exit. Stars will stay patient as he strengthens defensive play.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Tristan Bertucci
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Flint (OHL)
Could use bulk, but six-foot rear-guard uses what he does have to break up and shut down attacks.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Aram Minnetian
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
Patient puck-mover was sound defensively but struggled to impact offense as NCAA freshman.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Gavin White
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Texas (AHL)
Learning curve can be steep for young pros. White is working on defending at the next level.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Matej Blumel
Pos RW **Age** 24
2023-24 Texas (AHL)
Blossomed with 30-goal, 60-point AHL output. It's the other side of the game that needs tuning.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Brad Gardiner
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Ottawa (OHL)
Two-way pivot is more conductor than catalyst. Acts as go-between for playmakers and scorers.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Niilopekka Muhonen
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 KalPa Jr. (Fin.)
Physical attributes apparent, and he uses tools to play steady defense. Good breakout pass.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
88 Robertson	
80	
74 Johnston	
70 Hintz	
	Heiskanen 62
60	
57 Stankoven	
55 Duchene	
52 Seguin	
51 Benn	
	Harley 47
43 Marchment	
40	
36 Dadonov	
32 Steel	
	Lindell 27
25 Bourque	
	Dumba 22
20	
	Lundkvist 19
17 Blackwell	
	Bichsel 10
	Lyubushkin 9
	Smith 8
0	

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	vs Florida*	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Florida*	11:00 AM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
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Sun, Jan 12	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
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Thu, Jan 16	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Colorado	4:00 PM
Sun, Jan 19	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 24	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
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** Global Series in Finland*

PHOTO BY TEXAS STARS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

DALLAS STARS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Cole Brady	23	6-5	175	Left	Pickering, Ont.	Trade: NJ 2/28/24	UMass (HE)	9	4-2-2	3.03	.886
Casey DeSmith	33	6-0	181	Left	Rochester, N.H.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vancouver	29	12-9-6	2.89	.896
Benjamin Kraws	24	6-5	194	Left	Cranbury, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 3/25/24	St. Lawrence (ECAC)	37	14-17-6	2.49	.919
Maxim Mayorov	20	6-6	196	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	147th overall (2022)	Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)	15	11-1-1	1.46	.937
Jake Oettinger	25	6-6	224	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	26th overall (2017)	Dallas	54	35-14-4	2.72	.905
Remi Poirier	22	6-2	206	Left	Farnham, Que.	185th overall (2020)	Texas (AHL)	38	17-16-4	3.19	.904
Arno Tiefensee	22	6-4	192	Left	Weibwasser, Ger.	157th overall (2023)	Mannheim (Ger.)	32	19-13-0	2.43	.907
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jack Bar	21	6-2	193	Right	Newmarket, Ont.	138th overall (2021)	Harvard (ECAC)	27	1	5	6	12
Tristan Bertucci	19	6-0	179	Left	Woodbridge, Ont.	61st overall (2023)	Flint (OHL)	61	10	34	44	77
Lian Bichsel	20	6-6	233	Left	Olten, Sui.	18th overall (2022)	Rogle (Swe.)	29	2	2	4	28
Kyle Capobianco	27	6-2	201	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Manitoba (AHL)	69	12	42	54	46
Matt Dumba	30	6-0	181	Right	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Arizona/Tampa Bay	76	4	8	12	88
George Fegaras	20	6-1	188	Right	Richmond Hill, Ont.	83rd overall (2022)	Cornell (ECAC)	33	3	4	7	12
Thomas Harley	23	6-4	206	Left	Syracuse, N.Y.	18th overall (2019)	Dallas	79	15	32	47	18
Miro Heiskanen	25	6-2	197	Left	Espoo, Fin.	3rd overall (2017)	Dallas	71	9	45	54	36
Luke Krys	24	6-2	185	Right	Ridgefield, Conn.	Free Agent: signed 3/19/24	Providence (HE)	35	6	11	17	16
Christian Kyrou	21	5-11	166	Right	Toronto, Ont.	50th overall (2022)	Texas (AHL)	57	8	15	23	22
Esa Lindell	30	6-3	216	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	74th overall (2012)	Dallas	82	5	21	26	12
Nils Lundkvist	24	6-1	190	Right	Pitea, Swe.	Trade: NYR 9/19/22	Dallas	59	2	17	19	16
Ilya Lyubushkin	30	6-2	200	Right	Moscow, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Anaheim/Toronto	74	0	8	8	57
Aram Minnetian	19	5-11	192	Right	Woodcliff Lake, N.J.	125th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	40	3	6	9	29
Niilopekka Muhonen	18	6-4	195	Left	Kuopio, Fin.	158th overall (2024)	KalPa Jr. (Fin.)	27	4	7	11	43
Alexander Petrovic	32	6-5	208	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Texas (AHL)	70	5	17	22	40
Connor Punnett	21	6-2	200	Left	North Bay, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/7/24	Barrie/Oshawa (OHL)	66	11	44	55	123
Brendan Smith	35	6-2	200	Left	Mimico, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	New Jersey	63	5	10	15	61
Gavin White	21	6-0	196	Right	Brockville, Ont.	115th overall (2022)	Texas (AHL)	49	0	11	11	18
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Francesco Arcuri	21	6-2	195	Left	Toronto, Ont.	175th overall (2021)	Idaho (ECHL)	64	25	21	46	38
Oskar Back	24	6-3	210	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	75th overall (2018)	Texas (AHL)	59	7	29	36	12
Colin Blackwell	31	5-9	190	Right	North Andover, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Chicago	44	8	4	12	10
Mavrik Bourque	22	5-10	191	Right	Plessisville, Que.	30th overall (2020)	Texas (AHL)	71	26	51	77	32
Matt Duchene	33	6-1	210	Left	Haliburton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Dallas	80	25	40	65	20
Brad Gardiner	19	6-0	182	Right	Barrie, Ont.	79th overall (2023)	Ottawa (OHL)	67	16	33	49	34
Roope Hintz	27	6-3	212	Left	Tampere, Fin.	49th overall (2015)	Dallas	80	30	35	65	22
Justin Hryckowian	23	5-10	194	Left	L'ile-Bizard, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/20/24	Northeastern (HE)	32	13	30	43	8
Cameron Hughes	27	6-0	183	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	69	25	32	57	56
Wyatt Johnston	21	6-2	184	Right	Toronto, Ont.	23rd overall (2021)	Dallas	82	32	33	65	38
Angus MacDonell	19	5-10	180	Left	Toronto, Ont.	189th overall (2023)	Mississauga (OHL)	61	32	30	62	90
Mathias-Emilio Pettersen	24	5-10	170	Left	Manglerud, Nor.	Trade: Cgy 3/7/24	Calgary/Texas (AHL)	66	11	27	38	41
William Samuelsson	19	6-0	176	Left	Sodertalje, Swe.	222nd overall (2024)	Sodertalje Jr. (Swe.)	50	18	26	44	49
Tyler Seguin	32	6-1	207	Right	Brampton, Ont.	Trade: Bos 7/4/13	Dallas	68	25	27	52	26
Logan Stankoven	21	5-8	171	Right	Kamloops, B.C.	47th overall (2021)	Texas (AHL)	47	24	33	57	26
Sam Steel	26	6-0	185	Left	Ardrossan, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Dallas	77	9	15	24	29
Chase Wheatcroft	22	6-2	192	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/23	Texas (AHL)	46	3	13	16	28
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jamie Benn	35	6-2	205	Left	Victoria, B.C.	129th overall (2007)	Dallas	82	21	39	60	41
Sebastian Bradshaw	19	6-3	196	Left	Newtonville, Ont.	221st overall (2023)	Coquitlam (BCHL)	41	5	9	14	43
Justin Ertel	21	6-2	186	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	79th overall (2021)	North Bay (OHL)	64	25	44	69	74
Mason Marchment	29	6-4	216	Left	Uxbridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Dallas	81	22	31	53	54
Ayrton Martino	22	5-11	160	Left	Toronto, Ont.	73rd overall (2021)	Clarkson (ECAC)	31	9	18	27	8
Jason Robertson	25	6-3	202	Left	Arcadia, Calif.	39th overall (2017)	Dallas	82	29	51	80	22
Antonio Stranges	22	5-11	185	Left	Plymouth, Mich.	123rd overall (2020)	Texas (AHL)	55	11	12	23	10
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Matej Blumel	24	6-0	201	Left	Tabor, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 6/6/22	Texas (AHL)	72	31	31	62	37
Evgenii Dadonov	35	6-0	185	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Trade: Mtl 2/26/23	Dallas	51	12	11	23	8
Emil Hemming	18	6-1	201	Right	Vaasa, Fin.	29th overall (2024)	TPS (Fin.)	40	7	4	11	0
Arttu Hyry	23	6-2	209	Right	Oulu, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 4/15/24	Karpat (Fin.)	55	14	17	31	6
Kole Lind	25	6-1	193	Right	Swift Current, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	69	17	48	65	65
Kyle McDonald	22	6-4	221	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/10/23	Texas (AHL)	58	15	11	26	22
Matthew Seminoff	20	5-11	188	Right	Leesburg, Va.	179th overall (2022)	Texas (AHL)	70	4	11	15	14
Albert Sjoberg	21	6-0	183	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	207th overall (2021)	Malmo (Swe.)	39	3	2	5	4

DETROIT RED WINGS

DYLAN LARKIN

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
41-32-9 (.555)

OVERTIME
11-8

SHOOTOUT
3-1

OVERALL
18th

OFFENSE
3.35 GPG (9th)

DEFENSE
3.33 GAA (24th)

POWER PLAY
23.1% (9th)

PENALTY KILL
79.6% (14th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.26 (29th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.66 (26th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
D. Larkin (20:10)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Seider (22:22)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Derek Lalonde

GM
Steve Yzerman

ARENA
Little Caesars Arena

CAPACITY
19,515

AHL AFFILIATE
Grand Rapids Griffins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Toledo Walleye

PLAYOFF RECORD
0-0 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY BOB DUFF

THE 2023-24 SEASON WAS the best Hockeytown has witnessed in quite some time. The Detroit Red Wings came within a point of making their first playoff appearance since 2015-16.

Was it all smoke and mirrors, though? GM Steve Yzerman has patchworked with journeymen veterans the past couple of seasons, getting good results. But it could be that he's set the bar unrealistically high in terms of where his club is in the evolution of the so-called 'Yzerplan.' He has to start paying his young stars now, and big contracts to defenseman Moritz Seider and winger Lucas Raymond mean the club is in a salary-cap crisis. Key vets such as Shayne Gostisbehere and David Perron were let go. Going forward, the Wings must rely on younger players from within the system to step up. Might that mean a regression in the standings is coming? On paper, that outlook appears entirely plausible.

>OFFENSE

The Red Wings scored goals in bunches last season. Captain Dylan Larkin (33) and Raymond (31) each topped 30 tallies, and 13 players in total clicked for double digits. However, much of that offense packed up and left town over the summer. Free agents Perron (17 goals), Gostisbehere (10) and Daniel Sprong (18) departed. Robby Fabbri (18) and Jake Walman (12) were dealt. That's 75 goals leaving the team. Incoming are UFA winger Vladimir Tarasenko (23 goals) and defenseman Erik Gustafsson (six). That leaves quite a deficit to make up. The hope is that six-time 30-goal scorer Tarasenko trends upward and Patrick Kane, who scored 20 goals in 50 games after sign-

LUCAS RAYMOND

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

ing in late November, will be even more productive over a full season.

DEFENSE

Detroit gave up 273 goals, which ranked 24th overall. As the Wings were battling for a playoff spot, they allowed four or more goals in seven of their final 11 games. A team can't keep outscoring its problems forever, and the lack of defensive responsibility eventually caught up to the club. Midway through the season, the Wings dropped Walman from the top pairing and teamed veteran Ben Chiarot with 2021-22 Calder Trophy winner Seider. Late in the season, 2021 first-rounder Simon Edvinsson was summoned from AHL Grand Rapids and slotted onto the second pairing with Jeff Petry. Gustafsson will battle Justin Holl, Olli Maatta and rookie Albert Johansson for third-pairing minutes.

GOALTENDING

Journeyman Alex Lyon was the most consistent Detroit goalie. But his play, similar to that of James Reimer and Ville Husso, was merely average. Reimer wasn't re-signed. Injury limited Husso to just nine minutes after December. That led to the offseason addition of UFA Cam Talbot, who is coming off a strong season with Los Angeles. He holds the inside track to the No. 1 job.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play was a bright spot for Detroit. The Wings ranked ninth with a 23.1-percent success rate. However, this good news is tempered by the fact that two of the club's top four power-play performers – Gostisbehere (29 PP points) and Perron (17 PP points) – are gone. Keeping Kane and his ability to gain the zone and distribute the puck helps. Gustafsson is also being counted on to contribute. He has a big shot, and 27 of his 91 total points over the past three years have come on the power play. Detroit's penalty kill is also on the uptick. It went from 18th overall (78.3 percent) in 2022-23 to 14th (79.6 percent) last season.

INTANGIBLES

There was a noticeable change in the Red Wings' swagger after three-time Stanley Cup winner Kane joined the team. His on-ice vision made them a better club, and his team-first attitude was invaluable for a group still searching for playoff experience. Perron, now an Ottawa Senator, will be missed. He was a popular player and a vocal leader, both in the room and on the ice.

CUP ODDS

50/1

ROOKIES

Traditionally, the Wings like to slow cook their rookies. However, defenseman Johansson is no longer exempt from waivers. He isn't expected to be a star but will likely grow into a steady third-pairing defender.

X-FACTOR

Asking for more from players in their 30s such as Kane and Tarasenko could prove folly. The real X-factor could be Raymond. He took a huge step forward in production last season, his third in the NHL. The 2020 first-rounder scored 14 goals in Detroit's final 18 games.

THE BRASS

Yzerman admits he's outwardly feeling pressure for the rebuild to be showing more tangible progress. Coach Derek Lalonde, entering the final season of a three-year pact, needs to take the shackles off and let his skill players strut their stuff more often.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Lucas Raymond	1. Dylan Larkin	1. Alex DeBrincat
2. Vladimir Tarasenko	2. J.T. Compher	2. Patrick Kane
3. Michael Rasmussen	3. Andrew Copp	3. Christian Fischer
4. Tyler Motte	4. Joe Veleno	4. Jonatan Berggren
5. Sheldon Dries	5. Joe Snively	5. Carter Mazur

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Moritz Seider	6. Erik Gustafsson	1. Cam Talbot
2. Ben Chiarot	7. Justin Holl	2. Alex Lyon
3. Jeff Petry	8. Albert Johansson	3. Ville Husso
4. Simon Edvinsson	9. William Lagesson	
5. Olli Maatta	10. Tory Dello	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Shayne Gostisbehere, D; David Perron, LW; Robby Fabbri, C; Jake Walman, D; Daniel Sprong, RW; James Reimer, G; Austin Czarnik, C

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Simon Edvinsson
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Another strong AHL season followed by NHL cameo. Skilled puck-mover ready for big-time.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Axel Sandin Pellikka
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Skelleftea (Swe.)
Eye-popping numbers for a young defender in SHL. Was named league's top Swedish D-man.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Nate Danielson
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Portland (WHL)
Broke out in second half and excelled in playoffs. His two-way game will be his calling card.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

4. Marco Kasper
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Adjustment to North American game took time. Settled in and had strong playoff performance.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

5. Michael Brandsegg-Nygard
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Mora (Swe.2)
Uses every inch of his 6-foot-1 frame to generate offense. Needs to develop two-way game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Trey Augustine
Pos G **Age** 19
2023-24 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Big-game performer has U-18, WJC and Big Ten titles. Technically sound and exudes confidence.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Sebastian Cossa
Pos G **Age** 21
2023-24 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Towering stopper earned No. 1 job for Griffins in playoffs. Steady development is working.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Carter Mazur
Pos LW **Age** 22
2023-24 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Fiery winger attacks hard on forecheck and chips in offense. Low ceiling, high floor.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. William Wallinder
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Grand Rapids (AHL)
He can lead the rush, but his range and active stick are most useful for jamming up attackers.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. Albert Johansson
Pos D **Age** 23
2023-24 Grand Rapids (AHL)
Late-blooming blueliner is showing well through two AHL terms. Bottom-pairing potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	82 Raymond	
	77 Larkin	
	68 DeBrincat	
	66 Kane	
60		Seider 59
	52 Tarasenko	
	44 Compher	
40		
	34 Copp	
	33 Rasmussen	
		Gustafsson 31
	29 Veleno	
	26 Berggren	
	22 Fischer	Edvinsson 22
		Maatta 21
20		Chiarot 20
		Petry 19
	17 Motte	
	17 Kasper	
		Johansson 12
		Holl 8
0		

SCHEDULE

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Sun, Apr 6	vs Florida	5:30 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	@ New Jersey	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 17	@ Toronto	7:00 PM

**Stadium Series*

CHRISTIAN BONIN/TSGPHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

DETROIT RED WINGS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Gage Alexander	22	6-6	205	Left	Okotoks, Alta.	Trade: Ana 7/3/24	Tulsa (ECHL)	19	5-8-1	3.76	.887
Trey Augustine	19	6-1	183	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	41st overall (2023)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	35	23-9-2	2.96	.915
Jack Campbell	32	6-3	200	Left	Port Huron, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Bakersfield (AHL)	33	18-13-1	2.63	.918
Sebastian Cossa	21	6-6	229	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	15th overall (2021)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	40	22-9-9	2.41	.913
Rudy Guimond	19	6-3	166	Left	Pointe-Claire, Que.	169th overall (2023)	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	32	13-13-3	3.66	.869
Carter Gylander	23	6-4	170	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	191st overall (2019)	Colgate (ECAC)	32	14-14-4	2.93	.901
Ville Husso	29	6-3	205	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Trade: StL 7/8/22	Detroit	19	9-5-2	3.55	.892
Alex Lyon	31	6-1	196	Left	Baudette, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Detroit	44	21-18-5	3.05	.904
Landon Miller	18	6-4	193	Left	Barrie, Ont.	126th overall (2024)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	30	17-6-2	2.79	.889
Cam Talbot	37	6-4	200	Left	Caledonia, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Los Angeles	54	27-20-6	2.50	.913
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Kyle Aucoin	22	5-11	164	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	156th overall (2020)	Harvard (ECAC)	8	0	1	1	6
Shai Buium	21	6-3	209	Left	San Diego, Calif.	36th overall (2021)	Denver (NCHC)	43	7	29	36	14
Ben Chiarot	33	6-3	224	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Detroit	77	5	15	20	56
Brady Cleveland	19	6-5	211	Left	Wausau, Wis.	47th overall (2023)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	16	0	0	0	19
Tory Dello	27	6-0	190	Right	Crystal Lake, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/4/24	Chicago (AHL)	65	3	10	13	28
Simon Edvinsson	21	6-6	209	Left	Kungsbacka, Swe.	6th overall (2021)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	54	8	22	30	51
Erik Gustafsson	32	6-1	189	Left	Nynashamn, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	NY Rangers	76	6	25	31	35
Justin Holl	32	6-4	194	Right	Tonka Bay, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Detroit	38	0	5	5	22
Anton Johansson	20	6-4	172	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	105th overall (2022)	Leksand (Swe.)	46	3	5	8	16
Albert Johansson	23	6-0	168	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	60th overall (2019)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	66	6	15	21	46
Larry Keenan	19	6-3	185	Left	Barrie, Ont.	117th overall (2023)	Penticton (BCHL)	53	6	24	30	22
William Lagesson	28	6-2	211	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto/Anaheim	40	0	4	4	32
Olli Maatta	30	6-2	207	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Detroit	72	4	14	18	14
Cooper Moore	23	6-1	185	Left	Greenwich, Conn.	128th overall (2019)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	39	3	19	22	26
Jeff Petry	36	6-3	208	Right	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Trade: Mtl 8/15/23	Detroit	73	3	21	24	39
Jack Phelan	20	6-2	171	Right	Hinsdale, Ill.	137th overall (2023)	Sioux Falls (USHL)	41	1	6	7	51
Brogan Rafferty	29	6-0	202	Right	West Dundee, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Grand Rapids (AHL)	62	4	25	29	8
Axel Sandin Pellikka	19	5-11	176	Right	Gallivare, Swe.	17th overall (2023)	Skelleftea (Swe.)	39	10	8	18	17
Fisher Scott	19	6-1	179	Left	Carbondale, Colo.	208th overall (2024)	Dubuque (USHL)	61	8	25	33	30
Moritz Seider	23	6-3	205	Right	Zell, Ger.	6th overall (2019)	Detroit	82	9	33	42	51
Antti Tuomisto	23	6-4	194	Right	Pori, Fin.	35th overall (2019)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	50	5	12	17	24
Eemil Viro	22	6-0	165	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	70th overall (2020)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	32	1	5	6	6
William Wallinder	22	6-4	191	Left	Solleftea, Swe.	32nd overall (2020)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	65	3	12	15	10
John Whipple	18	6-1	192	Left	Morristown, N.J.	144th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	2	15	17	54
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Brennan Ali	20	6-0	193	Left	Glenco, Ill.	212th overall (2022)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	36	3	10	13	4
Ondrej Becher	20	6-1	184	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	80th overall (2024)	Prince George (WHL)	58	32	64	96	48
Andrew Copp	30	6-1	203	Left	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Detroit	79	13	20	33	26
Nate Danielson	20	6-2	185	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	9th overall (2023)	Brandon/Portland (WHL)	54	24	43	67	42
Liam Dower Nilsson	21	6-0	172	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	134th overall (2021)	Bjorkloven (Swe.2)	52	12	15	27	10
Sheldon Dries	30	5-9	180	Left	Macomb, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Abbotsford (AHL)	55	29	23	52	45
Emmitt Finnie	19	6-0	170	Left	Lethbridge, Alta.	201st overall (2023)	Kamloops (WHL)	62	19	40	59	28
Marco Kasper	20	6-1	183	Left	Innsbruck, Aut.	8th overall (2022)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	71	14	21	35	30
Dylan Larkin	28	6-1	199	Left	Waterford, Mich.	15th overall (2014)	Detroit	68	33	36	69	39
Amadeus Lombardi	21	5-10	165	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	113th overall (2022)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	70	5	21	26	14
Owen Mehlenbacher	20	6-2	189	Left	Fort Erie, Ont.	201st overall (2022)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	26	1	3	4	8
Tyler Motte	29	5-10	194	Left	St. Clair, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Tampa Bay	69	6	3	9	28
Michael Rasmussen	25	6-6	220	Left	Surrey, B.C.	9th overall (2017)	Detroit	75	13	20	33	47
Redmond Savage	21	5-11	180	Left	Scottsdale, Ariz.	114th overall (2021)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	38	10	17	27	12
Joe Snively	28	5-9	176	Left	Herndon, Va.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Hershey (AHL)	69	14	45	59	26
Joe Veleno	24	6-1	201	Left	Montreal, Que.	30th overall (2018)	Detroit	80	12	16	28	25
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Austin Baker	18	6-0	190	Left	White Lake, Mich.	203rd overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	59	15	16	31	29
Kevin Bicker	19	6-0	176	Left	Weiden in der Oberpfalz, Ger.	147th overall (2023)	Frankfurt (Ger.)	41	1	2	3	18
Dmitri Buchelnikov	21	5-10	163	Right	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	52nd overall (2022)	Vladivostok (KHL)	55	13	16	29	8
J.T. Compher	29	6-0	190	Right	Northbrook, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Detroit	77	19	29	48	34
Alexandre Doucet	22	6-0	192	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/23	Toledo (ECHL)	52	19	22	41	18
Noah Dower Nilsson	19	6-0	174	Left	Stromstad, Swe.	73rd overall (2023)	Frolunda (Swe.)	5	1	1	2	0
Charlie Forslund	18	6-3	212	Left	Falun, Swe.	176th overall (2024)	Falun U18 (Swe.)	26	18	18	36	10
Tim Gettinger	26	6-6	222	Left	Cleveland, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Grand Rapids (AHL)	55	12	13	25	20
Cross Hanas	22	6-1	171	Left	Dallas, Texas	55th overall (2020)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	58	8	8	16	48
Dylan James	20	6-0	181	Left	Calgary, Alta.	40th overall (2022)	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	9	10	19	12
Maximilian Kilpinen	20	6-0	165	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	129th overall (2022)	Modo Jr. (Swe.)	43	21	27	48	35
Carter Mazur	22	6-0	170	Right	Jackson, Mich.	70th overall (2021)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	60	17	20	37	48
Max Plante	18	5-11	170	Left	Duluth, Minn.	47th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	51	15	46	61	16
Lucas Raymond	22	5-11	188	Right	Gothenburg, Swe.	4th overall (2020)	Detroit	82	31	41	72	30
Jakub Rychlovsky	23	5-10	181	Left	Vrchlabi, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 6/3/24	Liberec (Cze.)	51	26	20	46	24
Elmer Soderblom	23	6-8	246	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	159th overall (2019)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	61	13	16	29	8
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jonatan Berggren	24	5-11	197	Left	Uppsala, Swe.	33rd overall (2018)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	53	24	32	56	58
Michael Brandsegg-Nygard	18	6-1	198	Right	Oslo, Nor.	15th overall (2024)	Mora (Swe.2)	41	8	10	18	19
Alex DeBrincat	26	5-8	180	Right	Farmington Hills, Mich.	Trade: Ott 7/9/23	Detroit	82	27	40	67	34
Kienan Draper	22	6-0	187	Right	Royal Oak, Mich.	187th overall (2020)	Michigan (Big Ten)	37	4	8	12	24
Christian Fischer	27	6-2	212	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Detroit	79	5	14	19	36
Patrick Kane	35	5-10	177	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 11/28/23	Detroit	50	20	27	47	16
Jesse Kiiskinen	19	6-2	197	Right	Hollola, Fin.	Trade: Nsh 6/25/24	Pelicans (Fin.)	38	4	6	10	8
Ryan O'Reilly	24	6-2	212	Right	Southlake, Texas	98th overall (2018)	Arizona State (NCAA)	37	9	6	15	18
Sam Stange	23	6-1	200	Right	Eau Claire, Wis.	97th overall (2020)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	7	0	0	0	4
Vladimir Tarasenko	32	6-1	219	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Ottawa/Florida	76	23	32	55	12

EDMONTON OILERS

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BY CAROL SCHRAM

AFTER COMING WITHIN A whisker of ending Canada's 31-year Stanley Cup drought, the Oilers are focused on taking another run at the title in 2024-25.

Connor McDavid's 42-point playoff performance further cemented his status as the NHL's best player, and he's on track to hit 1,000 career points early this season, before his 28th birthday. With his former agent, Jeff Jackson, now running the show as CEO of hockey ops, and his junior coach, Kris Knoblauch, calmly navigating the NHL playoff gauntlet on his first attempt, the Oilers are McDavid's team now more than ever.

His talent and determination, and the team-first mentality McDavid preaches, have suddenly turned Northern Alberta into a prime destination. Heading into 2024-25, the Oilers' roster is rife with title-hungry veterans looking for a chance to win. This year is all about unfinished business and bringing the championship experience to a new generation in Oil Country.

OFFENSE

Over the past two seasons combined, no team has scored more goals than Edmonton. In 2023-24, Zach Hyman's 54-goal breakout and Evan Bouchard's 82 points from the blueline augmented an already elite attack led by McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. New arrivals Jeff Skinner and Viktor Arvidsson will add even more firepower. Skinner, 32, is a six-time 30-goal scorer who's one year removed from a career-high 82 points. Arvidsson, 31, has also hit the 30-goal plateau twice, though he was limited to just 18 games last season – in which he scored six goals and 15 points – due to back surgery.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
49-27-6 (.634)

OVERTIME
8-5

SHOOTOUT
2-1

OVERALL
9th

OFFENSE
3.56 (4th)

DEFENSE
2.88 (10th)

POWER PLAY
26.3% (4th)

PENALTY KILL
79.5% (15th)

EXPECTED GF/60
3.20 (1st)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.40 (9th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. McDavid (21:22)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
E. Bouchard (23:00)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Kris Knoblauch

GM
Stan Bowman

ARENA
Rogers Place

CAPACITY
18,347

AHL AFFILIATE
Bakersfield Condors

ECHL AFFILIATE
Fort Wayne Komets

PLAYOFF RECORD
30-31 (since 2020)

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

EVAN BOUCHARD

DEFENSE

Bouchard and Mattias Ekholm strike a near-perfect yin-yang balance on Edmonton's top pair. Both can log big minutes, and Bouchard's booming shot is a dangerous weapon from the blueline. Ekholm delivers penalty-killing smarts while dishing out thunderous hits and keeping the net-front clear for his goalies. With a strong performance in the playoffs, Philip Broberg has shown he's ready for a full-time role. And when he's at his best, Darnell Nurse can be a beast. Big Josh Brown is set to replace the departed Vincent Desharnais, but blueline depth remains a concern. Still, Knoblauch's new system has been effective: goals against dropped from 3.12 per game in 2022-23 to 2.68 after he took over last season.

GOALTENDING

After two seasons, the Jack Campbell era ended with a buyout, leaving hometown boy Stuart Skinner as the undisputed No. 1. In his second full NHL campaign, Skinner played 59 games in the regular season, then recovered impressively after a wobbly start to the playoffs. Calvin Pickard came in as Edmonton's backup. He shone in his first consistent NHL action in seven years, playing 23 games.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Edmonton's power play has been the stuff of legend for years. With McDavid and Draisaitl running the show and Hyman at net-front, that won't change this season. More notably, assistant coach Mark Stuart has assembled a penalty kill that rivals the best in the league. It was crucial to Edmonton's post-season success, giving up just four PP goals in the entire playoffs and outscoring Florida 2-1 while shorthanded in the Cup final. In addition to stalwarts Ekholm and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, wingers Mattias Janmark and Connor Brown were also key on the PK.

INTANGIBLES

The new-coach bump when Knoblauch arrived was enormous. But without the same high-stakes drama as last year's climb from the depths of the standings, will he be able to keep his players engaged before the real test begins next April? Last season, the Oilers were also one of the healthiest teams. They're deeper this year, but a key injury or two could change the club's complexion. Defensive depth, particularly, remains a work in progress.

CUP ODDS

11/1

ROOKIES

Not technically a rookie, Broberg will likely be the only fresh face on a veteran-laden roster chasing a Stanley Cup. Local boy Matthew Savoie, picked up from Buffalo in a July trade, is now Edmonton's No. 1 prospect. At 20, he's most likely bound for AHL Bakersfield.

X-FACTOR

There's no doubt: the organization and its fans are hungry for a championship. And while we've seen NHL teams "learn to win," the pressure will ratchet up higher than ever this year. Looming over it all: the nagging distraction of Draisaitl and/or McDavid inching ever closer to free agency.

THE BRASS

Though they fell one win short of their ultimate goal, Knoblauch and Jackson crushed it in their rookie seasons in Oil Country. And when Ken Holland stepped down as GM just days after the final, Jackson came in and engineered one of the best free-agency periods in franchise history before naming Stan Bowman as GM in July.

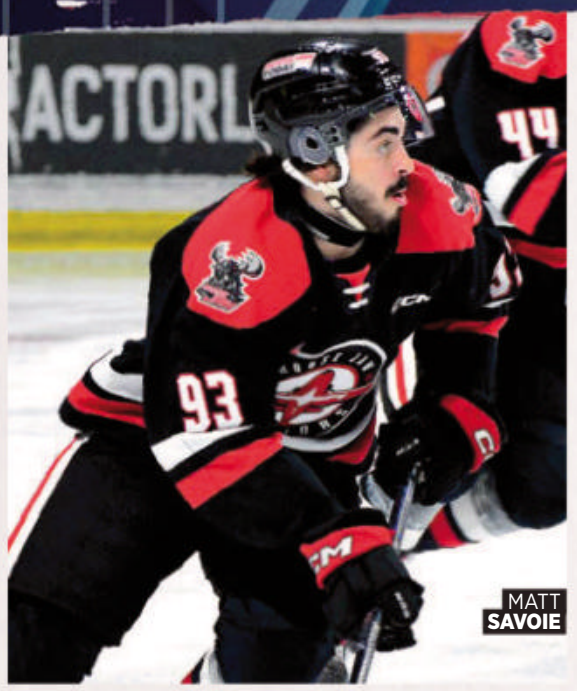
DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	1. Connor McDavid	1. Zach Hyman
2. Jeff Skinner	2. Leon Draisaitl	2. Viktor Arvidsson
3. Evander Kane	3. Adam Henrique	3. Connor Brown
4. Mattias Janmark	4. Derek Ryan	4. Corey Perry
5. Dylan Holloway	5. Matthew Savoie	5. James Hamblin

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mattias Ekholm	6. Brett Kulak	1. Stuart Skinner
2. Evan Bouchard	7. Josh Brown	2. Calvin Pickard
3. Darnell Nurse	8. Troy Stecher	3. Olivier Rodrigue
4. Philip Broberg	9. Connor Carrick	INJURED
5. Cody Ceci	10. Philip Kemp	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Warren Foegele, LW; Ryan McLeod, C; Sam Carrick, C; Sam Gagner, C; Vincent Desharnais, D; Jack Campbell, G; Adam Erne, LW

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Matt Savoie
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Moose Jaw (WHL)
Dynamic skater and creative playmaker is pro-ready. Put up five points in six-game AHL cameo.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Sam O'Reilly
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 London (OHL)
Nuts-and-bolts winger plays low-risk 200-foot game that coaches love. Plays down the middle, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Eemil Vinni
Pos G **Age** 18
2023-24 Kiekko-Pojat (Fin.2)
Athletically gifted stopper darts around crease and challenges well. He's a work in progress.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

4. Raphael Lavoie
Pos LW **Age** 24
2023-24 Bakersfield (AHL)
Year-over-year scoring increases are promising. Improved two-way play earned him an NHL look.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Beau Akey
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Barrie (OHL)
Confident puck-moving defenseman missed all but 14 games due to shoulder injury last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Olivier Rodrigue
Pos G **Age** 24
2023-24 Bakersfield (AHL)
After splitting time, he's set for top AHL duty thanks to marked improvement in several areas.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Maximus Wanner
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Bakersfield (AHL)
Plays big minutes and is crucial to minor-league PK. Uses his wingspan to great effect.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Matvey Petrov
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Bakersfield (AHL)
Pro learning curve was challenging in first AHL season, but size and strength are no concern.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Maksim Berezkin
Pos LW **Age** 22
2023-24 Yaroslavl (KHL)
Forechecking presence had near point-per-game playoff in second full KHL campaign. Good hands.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Shane Lachance
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Boston University (HE)
Produced as a freshman. Solid 6-foot-4 frame lets him impose physically and power to net.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	137 McDavid 121 Draisaitl	
80	75 Hyman	Bouchard 77
	68 Nugent-Hopkins	
60	55 Skinner 53 Arvidsson	
40	41 Henrique 39 Kane	Ekholm 39 Nurse 34
	30 Holloway	
	26 Savoie	
20	21 Janmark 20 Perry 20 C. Brown	Ceci 22 Kulak 18 15 Ryan Broberg 15
		J. Brown 9 Stecher 5
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Dallas	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Fri, Oct 25	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	@ Detroit	6:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 4	vs New Jersey	8:30 PM
Wed, Nov 6	vs Vegas	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs Columbus	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Vegas	4:00 PM
Mon, Dec 16	vs Florida	8:30 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs San Jose	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ Anaheim	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 13	vs Los Angeles	9:30 PM
Wed, Jan 15	@ Minnesota	8:30 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Buffalo	4:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	vs Seattle	9:30 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Wed, Feb 5	@ Chicago	9:30 PM
Fri, Feb 7	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Washington	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	vs Montreal	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 10	@ Buffalo	6:30 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sun, Mar 16	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Winnipeg	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 26	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	@ Anaheim	10:30 PM
Wed, Apr 9	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	vs San Jose	9:30 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	@ San Jose	10:30 PM

NICK PETTIGREW/MOOSE JAW WARRIORS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

EDMONTON OILERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Nathaniel Day	19	6-2	181	Left	Burlington, Ont.	184th overall (2023)	Flint (OHL)	54	25-26-1	3.73	.868
Collin Delia	30	6-2	208	Left	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Manitoba (AHL)	32	11-19-1	3.55	.872
Samuel Jonsson	20	6-5	201	Left	Angelholm, Swe.	158th overall (2022)	Stromsbro (Swe.3)	5	1-2-0	4.34	.843
Calvin Pickard	32	6-1	206	Left	Moncton, N.B.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Edmonton	23	12-7-1	2.45	.909
Olivier Rodrigue	24	6-1	158	Left	Chicoutimi, Que.	62nd overall (2018)	Bakersfield (AHL)	37	19-12-5	2.73	.916
Stuart Skinner	25	6-4	230	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	78th overall (2017)	Edmonton	59	36-16-5	2.62	.905
Connor Ungar	22	6-0	190	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/18/24	Brock (USports)	26	20-6-0	2.15	.932
Eemil Vinni	18	6-3	187	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	64th overall (2024)	Kiekko-Pojat (Fin.2)	37	17-9-10	2.72	.892
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Beau Akey	19	6-0	173	Right	Waterloo, Ont.	56th overall (2023)	Barrie (OHL)	14	4	5	9	12
Bauer Berry	18	6-4	198	Left	Grand Forks, N.D.	218th overall (2024)	Muskegon (USHL)	59	1	13	14	83
Evan Bouchard	24	6-3	192	Right	Oakville, Ont.	10th overall (2018)	Edmonton	81	18	64	82	32
Philip Broberg	23	6-4	212	Left	Orebro, Swe.	8th overall (2019)	Bakersfield (AHL)	49	5	33	38	16
Josh Brown	30	6-5	220	Right	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Arizona	51	3	7	10	75
Connor Carrick	30	5-10	198	Right	Orland Park, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	70	9	25	34	66
Cody Ceci	30	6-3	210	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Edmonton	79	5	20	25	14
Cam Dineen	26	5-11	188	Left	Toms River, N.J.	Trade: Ari 3/2/23	Bakersfield (AHL)	58	5	20	25	18
Mattias Ekholm	34	6-5	225	Left	Borlange, Swe.	Trade: Nsh 2/28/23	Edmonton	79	11	34	45	47
Ben Gleason	26	6-1	190	Left	Ortonville, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Bakersfield (AHL)	62	10	22	32	32
Noel Hoefenmayer	25	6-0	191	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Bakersfield (AHL)	47	7	11	18	64
Philip Kemp	25	6-3	202	Right	Greenwich, Conn.	208th overall (2017)	Bakersfield (AHL)	64	2	13	15	54
Brett Kulak	30	6-2	192	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Trade: Mtl 3/21/22	Edmonton	82	3	13	16	30
Luca Munzenberger	21	6-2	190	Left	Dusseldorf, Ger.	90th overall (2021)	Vermont (HE)	32	1	2	3	51
Darnell Nurse	29	6-4	215	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	7th overall (2013)	Edmonton	81	10	22	32	79
Troy Stecher	30	5-10	184	Right	Richmond, B.C.	Trade: Ari 3/7/24	Arizona/Edmonton	54	1	6	7	32
Albin Sundin	20	6-2	198	Right	Kungsbacka, Swe.	183rd overall (2024)	Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)	41	4	13	17	59
Maximus Wanner	21	6-3	185	Right	Estevan, Sask.	212 overall (2021)	Bakersfield (AHL)	68	7	10	17	37
Nikita Yevseyev	20	6-1	187	Left	Almetyevsk, Rus.	190th overall (2022)	Kazan/Almetyevsk (Rus.2)	38	2	10	12	40
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Carl Berglund	24	6-2	207	Left	Hammaro, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 3/22/23	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	51	12	30	42	26
Drake Caggiula	30	5-10	179	Left	Pickering, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Bakersfield (AHL)	43	13	24	37	31
Connor Clattenburg	19	6-4	195	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	160th overall (2024)	Sault Ste. Marie/Flint (OHL)	60	13	16	29	79
Matt Copponi	21	5-11	174	Right	Mansfield, Mass.	216th overall (2023)	Merrimack (HE)	30	7	25	32	48
Maxim Denezhkin	23	5-10	165	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	193rd overall (2019)	Yekaterinburg (KHL)	16	1	3	4	6
Leon Draisaitl	28	6-2	209	Left	Cologne, Ger.	3rd overall (2014)	Edmonton	81	41	65	106	76
Jayden Grubbe	21	6-3	201	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: NYR 5/31/23	Bakersfield (AHL)	67	8	6	14	53
Adam Henrique	34	6-0	195	Left	Brantford, Ont.	Trade: Ana 3/6/24	Anaheim/Edmonton	82	24	27	51	37
Mattias Janmark	31	6-2	205	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/17/22	Edmonton	71	4	8	12	46
Joel Maatta	22	6-1	200	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	222nd overall (2022)	Vermont (HE)	26	4	5	9	35
Tomas Mazura	24	6-2	170	Left	Pardubice, Cze.	162nd overall (2019)	St. Lawrence (ECAC)	34	6	14	20	12
Connor McDavid	27	6-1	194	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	1st overall (2015)	Edmonton	76	32	100	132	30
William Nicholl	18	6-0	184	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	196th overall (2024)	London (OHL)	65	6	14	20	38
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	31	6-1	192	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	1st overall (2011)	Edmonton	80	18	49	67	36
Lane Pederson	27	6-1	196	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Bakersfield (AHL)	66	22	30	52	40
Noah Philp	26	6-3	198	Right	Canmore, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 4/6/22	Bakersfield (AHL)	-	-	DNP	-	-
Derek Ryan	37	5-10	185	Right	Spokane, Wash.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Edmonton	70	5	7	12	8
Matt Savoie	20	5-9	179	Right	St. Albert, Alta.	Trade: Buf 7/5/24	Wenatchee/Moose Jaw (WHL)	34	30	41	71	10
Dalyn Wakely	20	6-0	190	Right	Port Hope, Ont.	192nd overall (2024)	North Bay (OHL)	66	39	65	104	71
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Maksim Berezkin	22	6-2	201	Right	Chita, Rus.	138th overall (2020)	Yaroslavl (KHL)	62	8	22	30	18
James Hamblin	25	5-10	185	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/22	Edmonton	31	2	1	3	0
Dylan Holloway	23	6-1	206	Left	Calgary, Alta.	14th overall (2020)	Edmonton	38	6	3	9	29
Zach Hyman	32	6-1	206	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Edmonton	80	54	23	77	48
Roby Jarventie	22	6-2	184	Left	Tampere, Fin.	Trade: Ott 7/15/24	Belleville (AHL)	22	9	11	20	22
Evander Kane	33	6-2	218	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 1/27/22	Edmonton	77	24	20	44	85
Shane Lachance	21	6-4	195	Left	Andover, Mass.	186th overall (2021)	Boston University (HE)	40	13	14	27	12
Raphael Lavoie	24	6-4	215	Right	Chambly, Que.	38th overall (2019)	Bakersfield (AHL)	66	28	22	50	64
Matvey Petrov	21	6-2	178	Right	Gus-Khrustalny, Rus.	180th overall (2021)	Bakersfield (AHL)	53	9	5	14	34
Jeff Skinner	32	5-11	200	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Buffalo	74	24	22	46	34
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Viktor Arvidsson	31	5-10	185	Right	Skelleftea, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Los Angeles	18	6	9	15	14
Connor Brown	30	6-0	184	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Edmonton	71	4	8	12	10
Sam O'Reilly	18	6-1	178	Right	Toronto, Ont.	32nd overall (2024)	London (OHL)	68	20	36	56	34
Corey Perry	39	6-3	208	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 1/22/24	Chicago/Edmonton	54	12	10	22	46
James Stefan	21	6-0	183	Right	Atlanta, Ga.	Free Agent: signed 3/21/24	Portland (WHL)	67	50	51	101	51
Brady Stonehouse	20	5-10	193	Left	Blenheim, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/5/23	Ottawa (OHL)	64	20	24	44	59

FLORIDA PANTHERS

ALEKSANDER BARKOV

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
52-24-6 (.671)

OVERTIME
7-4

SHOOTOUT
3-2

OVERALL
5th

OFFENSE
3.23 GPG (11th)

DEFENSE
2.41 GAA (1st)

POWER PLAY
23.5% (8th)

PENALTY KILL
82.5% (6th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.76 (6th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.32 (5th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
S. Reinhart (20:18)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
B. Montour (23:27)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Paul Maurice

GM
Bill Zito

ARENA
Amerant Bank Arena

CAPACITY
19,250

AHL AFFILIATE
Charlotte Checkers

ECHL AFFILIATE
Savannah Ghost Pirates

PLAYOFF RECORD
36-29 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY COLBY GUY

THE PANTHERS REACHED THE top of the mountain in 2024. Now, they'll attempt to defend their title. That will be a tough task for a core who has played more than 200 games over the past two seasons – losing in the 2023 Cup final to Vegas before beating Edmonton last season – and even more so after a UFA exodus that included Brandon Montour, Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Vladimir Tarasenko. But Florida has proven that it can win even in the most difficult of circumstances.

The Panthers began 2023-24 without star blueliners Aaron Ekblad and Montour, both of whom had sustained injuries during the 2023 playoffs. Nevertheless, Florida was one of the NHL's best defensive teams without the pair, and then ran away with the Atlantic Division title when they returned. And after a gauntlet of a playoff run through rivals Tampa Bay and Boston, the Presidents' Trophy-winning Rangers and finally the Oilers, the Panthers were champions for the first time.

>OFFENSE

The Panthers return with their top eight scorers from last season. Sam Reinhart headlines the group after potting 57 goals in the regular season and another 10 in the playoffs. Aleksander Barkov, Matthew Tkachuk, Carter Verhaeghe, Sam Bennett and Evan Rodrigues round out one of the NHL's most potent top-six forward groups. Anton Lundell is another key player up front. Centering the third line, he was eighth on the team in points in the regular season before moving up to fourth in points in the playoffs. The Panthers could really use a big season from Lundell after he inked a six-year, $30-million contract.

SAM REINHART

DEFENSE

When teams poached their Cup-winning core in free agency, the biggest hit was on defense. Montour and Ekman-Larsson provided mobility and transition from the back end, which was key in the Panthers' quick breakouts. The good news is the top shutdown pair of Ekblad and Gustav Forsling is back. Still, Florida needs someone to step up next to Niko Mikkola. Veteran blueliner Nate Schmidt arrives on a one-year UFA deal, while undrafted Latvian defender Uvis Balinskis, 28, could be a candidate to break out.

GOALTENDING

Sergei Bobrovsky will get the bulk of the crease work once again after leading the Panthers to the Stanley Cup. That will likely be the case for the remaining two years of the mega-deal he signed back in 2019. But time will tell as to how long he can continue to play at a high level as he enters 2024-25 at 36. Spencer Knight is the likely frontrunner for the backup job, though Chris Driedger was brought in as insurance.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Florida suffered key losses on special teams during free agency. It lost both of its power-play quarterbacks in Montour and Ekman-Larsson, while center Kevin Stenlund was an important piece of one of the NHL's top penalty-killing units. On paper, the power play boasts a lot of talent, including the league leader in PP goals in Reinhart (27). Barkov, Tkachuk, Verhaeghe and Reinhart form a formidable unit, but someone such as Forsling will need to step up to replace Montour. The penalty kill is an easier fix. Barkov and Reinhart excelled together as a forward duo, and Lundell can slide in for Stenlund next to Eetu Luostarinen.

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

INTANGIBLES

When it comes to intangibles, there are few teams better off than the Panthers. The core of this team has played in – and won – the most playoff games of any NHL franchise over the past two seasons. Chemistry, toughness and leadership are all qualities the Panthers have exhibited time and time again. And this is a young team. Rodrigues and Dmitry Kulikov are the only two players over the age of 30 who are locked beyond 2025-26.

CUP ODDS

13/1

ROOKIES

Mackie Samoskevich will get a longer look at the NHL level with Tarasenko moving on to Detroit. Samoskevich shined in the AHL, scoring 22 goals and 54 points in 62 games in his first pro season. Justin Sourdif is another candidate after 12 goals and 38 points in 58 AHL games last season.

X-FACTOR

The Panthers have the core in place to make another run at the Stanley Cup. It's just a matter of whether their depth and power play can withstand the losses in free agency. Forsling is a wild card on the power play, while Lundell will need to carry Florida's bottom six for them to be successful.

THE BRASS

GM Bill Zito took the free-agency losses on the chin and brought in depth pieces who fit the bill. The Panthers put a premium on physicality, speed and tenacious forechecking from the fourth line. Coach Paul Maurice will look to continue to bring the best of those qualities out of his players after winning the first Stanley Cup of his long and illustrious career.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Carter Verhaeghe	1. Aleksander Barkov	1. Matthew Tkachuk
2. Evan Rodrigues	2. Sam Bennett	2. Sam Reinhart
3. Eetu Luostarinen	3. Anton Lundell	3. Mackie Samoskevich
4. A.J. Greer	4. Jesper Boqvist	4. Tomas Nosek
5. Jonah Gadjovich	5. Zac Dalpe	5. William Lockwood

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Gustav Forsling	6. Adam Boqvist	1. Sergei Bobrovsky
2. Aaron Ekblad	7. Uvis Balinskis	2. Spencer Knight
3. Niko Mikkola	8. Matt Kiersted	3. Chris Driedger
4. Nate Schmidt	9. Tobias Bjornfot	
5. Dmitry Kulikov	10. Mikulas Hovorka	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs B. Montour, D; O. Ekman-Larsson, D; V. Tarasenko, RW; A. Stolarz, G; K. Stenlund, C; R. Lomberg, LW; N. Cousins, C; J. Mahura, D; S. Lorentz, C; K. Okposo, RW

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Mackie Samoskevich
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Charlotte (AHL)
Near-seamless pro transition saw him become solid AHL contributor. Strong skater with high IQ.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Justin Sourdif
Pos RW **Age** 22
2023-24 Charlotte (AHL)
All-situations winger. Plays with competitive fire and physical edge but has gone over the line.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Linus Eriksson
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Djurgarden (Swe.2)
No holes in his game. No standout trait, either. High-effort pivot is sound in all three zones.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Matvei Shuravin
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 K.A. Moscow Jr. (Rus.)
Good first pass and puck skills help create transitions and generate offense. High ceiling.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Gracyn Sawchyn
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Edmonton (WHL)
Deft puckhandler and skilled passer with excellent vision. Needs to add bulk to slight frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Mike Benning
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Charlotte (AHL)
NCAA tournament MVP in 2022 is already showing offensive flashes and defensive solidity as a pro.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Ludvig Jansson
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Lulea (Swe.)
Uses his beautiful skating stride to close gaps and break up plays. Limited offensive upside.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Jack Devine
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Denver (NCHC)
Helped Pios to national crown. Poised playmaker has some tenacity. Top 10 for Hobey Baker.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Josh Davies
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Portland (WHL)
Plays fast, physical and with decisiveness. Projects as a crash-and-bang bottom-six winger.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Sandis Vilmanis
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 North Bay (OHL)
Tremendous second OHL campaign included exceptional playoff performance. Dangerous shooter.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	101 Tkachuk	
80	86 Barkov 83 Reinhart	
	72 Verhaeghe	
60		
	45 Lundell	
40	39 Bennett	Forsling 39
	38 Rodrigues	Ekblad 38
	36 Luostarinen	
	24 J. Boqvist	A. Boqvist 24
20		Schmidt 21
		Kulikov 18
	17 Entwistle	
	15 Nosek	Mikkola 15
	12 Greer	
		Balinskis 11
		Bjornfot 3
0		

SCHEDULE

Tue, Oct 8	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 10	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Vegas	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Minnesota	6:30 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	@ Dallas*	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Dallas*	11:00 AM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Colorado	6:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Carolina	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Carolina	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs San Jose	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 16	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Wed, Dec 18	@ Minnesota	9:30 PM
Fri, Dec 20	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	@ Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Montreal	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 30	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Boston	1:00 PM
Mon, Jan 13	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Anaheim	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 22	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs Chicago	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs NY Islanders	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Seattle	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Calgary	3:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs Buffalo	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Washington	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs Montreal	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Ottawa	2:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ Detroit	5:30 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Buffalo	6:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM

** Global Series in Finland*

JACOB KUPFERMAN/CHARLOTTE CHECKERS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

FLORIDA PANTHERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Cooper Black	23	6-8	223	Left	Alpena, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 4/2/24	Dartmouth (ECAC)	30	13-8-8	2.58	.910
Sergei Bobrovsky	36	6-2	188	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	Florida	58	36-17-4	2.37	.915
Chris Driedger	30	6-4	208	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	39	24-7-7	2.26	.917
Denis Gabdrakhmanov	19	6-3	187	Left	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	201st overall (2024)	Tyumen Jr. (Rus.)	40	10-20-7	2.55	.924
Kirill Gerasimyuk	21	6-2	178	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	152nd overall (2021)	SKA-1946 St. Petersburg Jr. (Rus.)	14	9-3-1	1.56	.953
Olof Glifford	19	6-4	191	Left	Sweden	159th overall (2023)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	24	16-8-0	2.94	.905
Spencer Knight	23	6-3	192	Left	Darien, Conn.	13th overall (2019)	Charlotte (AHL)	45	25-14-5	2.41	.905
Tyler Muszelik	20	6-3	195	Left	Long Valley, N.J.	189th overall (2022)	New Hampshire (HE)	8	5-3-0	3.38	.874
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Marek Alscher	20	6-3	206	Left	Slany, Cze.	93rd overall (2022)	Portland (WHL)	57	7	19	26	43
Uvis Balinskis	28	6-0	196	Left	Ventspils, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 4/18/23	Charlotte (AHL)	37	3	18	21	31
Mike Benning	22	5-9	185	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	95th overall (2020)	Charlotte (AHL)	72	9	17	26	50
Carter Berger	25	6-0	200	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	106th overall (2019)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	36	4	16	20	14
Tobias Bjornfot	23	6-1	200	Left	Upplands Vasby, Swe.	Waivers: Veg 3/8/24	Ontario/Henderson (AHL)	14	0	0	0	6
Adam Boqvist	24	6-0	189	Right	Falun, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/9/24	Columbus	35	1	9	10	0
Luke Coughlin	19	5-10	170	Left	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	191st overall (2023)	Rimouski (QMJHL)	42	2	20	22	28
Aaron Ekblad	28	6-4	215	Right	Windsor, Ont.	1st overall (2014)	Florida	51	4	14	18	50
Gustav Forsling	28	6-0	195	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	Waivers: Car 1/9/21	Florida	79	10	29	39	43
Mikulas Hovorka	23	6-6	229	Right	Prague, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 4/10/24	Ceske Budejovice (Cze.)	51	5	11	16	4
Ludvig Jansson	20	6-0	176	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	125th overall (2022)	Lulea (Swe.)	50	0	3	3	25
Matt Kiersted	26	6-0	181	Left	Elk River, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 4/1/21	Charlotte (AHL)	57	4	11	15	53
Dmitry Kulikov	33	6-1	201	Left	Lipetsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Florida	76	1	19	20	63
Vladislav Lukashevich	21	6-2	167	Left	Magadan, Rus.	120th overall (2021)	Tri-City (USHL)	54	11	32	43	27
Jaycob Megna	31	6-6	220	Left	Plantation, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/24	Chicago	44	0	2	2	22
Niko Mikkola	28	6-5	206	Left	Kiiminki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Florida	82	3	14	17	69
Evan Nause	21	6-2	192	Left	White Rock, B.C.	56th overall (2021)	Florida (ECHL)	28	0	5	5	17
Nate Schmidt	33	6-0	192	Left	St. Cloud, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Winnipeg	63	2	12	14	16
Matvei Shuravin	18	6-4	218	Left	Moscow, Rus.	97th overall (2024)	Krasnaya Armiya Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	22	0	7	7	26
Nathan Staios	23	5-8	176	Left	Atlanta, Ga.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Florida/Nfld. (ECHL)	55	9	19	28	26
Zachary Uens	23	6-1	190	Left	Belleville, Ont.	105th overall (2020)	Florida (ECHL)	61	3	17	20	68
Albert Wikman	19	6-1	191	Left	Arvika, Swe.	127th overall (2023)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	45	3	17	20	18
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Rasmus Asplund	26	5-11	185	Left	Filipstad, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/23	Charlotte (AHL)	67	9	35	44	22
Aleksander Barkov	29	6-3	215	Left	Tampere, Fin.	2nd overall (2013)	Florida	73	23	57	80	24
Sam Bennett	28	6-1	195	Left	Holland Landing, Ont.	Trade: Cgy 4/12/21	Florida	69	20	21	41	100
Jesper Boqvist	25	6-1	184	Left	Falun, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	47	6	8	14	8
Zac Dalpe	34	6-2	193	Right	Paris, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/30/21	Charlotte (AHL)	67	17	13	30	50
Linus Eriksson	18	6-0	183	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	58th overall (2024)	Djurgarden (Swe.2)	29	3	8	11	10
Stepan Gorbunov	18	6-5	196	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	169th overall (2024)	Chelyabinsk Jr. (Rus.)	40	10	12	22	10
Aleksi Heponiemi	25	5-10	155	Left	Tampere, Fin.	40th overall (2017)	Biel-Bienne (Sui.)	22	7	10	17	10
Owen Lindmark	23	6-0	192	Right	Enid, Okla.	137th overall (2019)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	28	11	10	21	6
Anton Lundell	22	6-1	190	Left	Espoo, Fin.	12th overall (2020)	Florida	78	13	22	35	46
Eetu Luostarinen	26	6-3	190	Left	Siilinjarvi, Fin.	Trade: Car 2/24/20	Florida	82	12	15	27	26
Ryan McAllister	22	5-10	183	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 4/3/23	Charlotte (AHL)	37	8	11	19	16
Sam Reinhart	28	6-2	193	Right	West Vancouver, B.C.	Trade: Buf 7/24/21	Florida	82	57	37	94	31
Evan Rodrigues	31	5-11	175	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Florida	80	12	27	39	34
Gracyn Sawchyn	19	5-11	157	Right	Grande Prairie, Alta.	63rd overall (2023)	Seattle/Edmonton (WHL)	54	19	45	64	44
Wilmer Skoog	25	6-2	196	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/12/24	Charlotte (AHL)	49	22	9	31	12
Carter Verhaeghe	29	6-2	180	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/9/20	Florida	76	34	38	72	36
Simon Zether	18	6-3	186	Right	Helsingborg, Swe.	129th overall (2024)	Rogle (Swe.)	42	0	4	4	25
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Josh Davies	20	5-9	197	Left	Calgary, Alta.	186th overall (2022)	Portland (WHL)	55	36	25	61	91
Jonah Gadjovich	25	6-2	209	Left	Whitby, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/16/23	Florida	39	2	2	4	104
A.J. Greer	27	6-3	209	Left	Joliette, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary	59	6	6	12	35
Jakub Kos	21	6-2	174	Left	Kurim, Cze.	184th overall (2021)	Brno (Cze.)	34	2	9	11	6
Tomas Nosek	32	6-3	205	Left	Pardubice, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	New Jersey	36	2	4	6	6
Oliver Okuliar	24	6-2	190	Left	Trencin, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 4/12/24	Mountfield (Cze.)	52	24	21	45	53
Kai Schwindt	20	6-6	197	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 9/30/22	Sarnia (OHL)	33	13	10	23	30
Hunter St. Martin	19	6-1	174	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	193rd overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	68	24	28	52	50
Ben Steeves	22	5-8	165	Left	Bedford, N.H.	Free Agent: signed 3/25/24	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	37	24	10	34	30
Matthew Tkachuk	26	6-2	206	Left	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Trade: Cgy 7/22/22	Florida	80	26	62	88	88
Sandis Vilmanis	20	6-1	192	Left	Riga, Lat.	157th overall (2022)	Sarnia/North Bay (OHL)	60	38	29	67	10
Stepan Zvyagin	20	6-0	161	Left	Moscow, Rus.	198th overall (2023)	Shinnik Bobruysk Jr. (Rus.)	25	10	20	30	8
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Jack Devine	21	5-11	173	Right	Glencoe, Ill.	221st overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	44	27	29	56	20
Mackenzie Entwistle	25	6-3	205	Right	Georgetown, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Chicago	67	5	6	11	47
Patrick Giles	24	6-4	217	Right	Chevy Chase, Md.	Free Agent: signed 9/20/22	Charlotte (AHL)	66	13	10	23	31
Logan Hutsko	25	5-10	172	Right	Tampa, Fla.	89th overall (2018)	Oskarshamn/Modo (Swe.)	35	3	4	7	4
William Lockwood	26	6-0	178	Right	Royal Oak, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Charlotte (AHL)	32	12	13	25	10
Mackie Samoskevich	21	5-11	183	Right	Newtown, Conn.	24th overall (2021)	Charlotte (AHL)	62	22	32	54	24
Justin Sourdif	22	5-11	180	Right	Richmond, B.C.	87th overall (2020)	Charlotte (AHL)	58	12	26	38	62

LOS ANGELES KINGS

ADRIAN KEMPE

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BY DOUG WARD

IT WAS A SUMMER of alterations in Los Angeles, as the Kings unveiled a retro uniform that incorporates their sartorial history with an emphasis on the Wayne Gretzky era. Now, if they can find a way to tailor their roster so Stanley Cup holdovers mesh seamlessly with future stars, the Kings just might play as well as they look.

Los Angeles would happily leave its recent past behind. For the third straight season, Edmonton delivered a first-round knockout, and meaningful changes were in order. GM Rob Blake hit a triple with the swap of enigmatic center Pierre-Luc Dubois for veteran goalie Darcy Kuemper, addressing a problem in the dressing room, another in goal and yet another with the salary cap. Coach Jim Hiller's 21-12-1 record after taking over for Todd McLellan enabled him to ditch the "interim" label. Fashion is cyclical, and the Kings believe the same can be true for their time as a contender.

>OFFENSE

With the league's 17th-ranked offense (3.10 goals per game), the Kings landed in the middle of the pack. The team's emphasis on defensive responsibility over offensive firepower means they need to share the scoring load to win. A balanced attack is led by Adrian Kempe, who posted a career-high 75 points, along with Kevin Fiala (73 points) and Anze Kopitar (70 points). Southern California native Trevor Moore paced the team with 31 goals, while four other Kings – Fiala (29), Kempe (28), Kopitar (26) and Quinton Byfield (20) – reached the 20-goal plateau. Byfield's emergence bodes well for the future, as does defenseman Brandt Clarke's offensive prowess.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
44-27-11 (.604)

OVERTIME
5-6

SHOOTOUT
2-5

OVERALL
12th

OFFENSE
3.10 (17th)

DEFENSE
2.56 (3rd)

POWER PLAY
22.6% (12th)

PENALTY KILL
84.6% (2nd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.75 (8th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.29 (4th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Kopitar (19:39)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Doughty (25:48)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jim Hiller

GM
Rob Blake

ARENA
Crypto.com Arena

CAPACITY
18,230

AHL AFFILIATE
Ontario Reign

ECHL AFFILIATE
Greenville Swamp Rabbits

PLAYOFF RECORD
6-12 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

LOS ANGELES KINGS

DEFENSE

The Kings were once again among the league's elite teams defensively, allowing just 2.56 goals per game, third-best in the NHL. By employing a stifling 1-3-1 trap, the Kings have earned a reputation as a tough team to play against, a style to which Hiller has pledged allegiance. Hiller made it clear he sees the Kings' identity shaped by their defense-first ethos, so defensive responsibility remains a priority and won't be sacrificed in order to manufacture more scoring. Eight years removed from his Norris Trophy-winning season, Drew Doughty, 34, showed no signs of slippage, playing in all 82 contests and averaging 25:48 per game. Mikey Anderson, Doughty's defense partner, was solid defensively and chipped in 18 points.

GOALTENDING

Even with the throwback uniforms, we won't see the second coming of Rogie Vachon or Kelly Hrudey. But goaltending does not have to be a strength in the Kings' tight-checking system. Kuemper returns for his second stint in L.A., looking more like a leading man than the role player who appeared in 19 games back in 2017-18. Kuemper will get the majority of starts, with David Rittich slated for backup duty.

SPECIAL TEAMS

How do you judge a penalty kill that was second best in the league during the regular season, killing 84.6 percent of its shorthanded situations, but collapsed in the post-season? Against Edmonton, the Kings' PK yielded nine goals on 20 power plays over five games for an abysmal 55.0-percent kill rate. The power play was equally troubling in the post-season, unable to score a single goal against the Oilers after clicking at a respectable 22.6 percent during the regular season. Hiller & Co. must focus on ensuring the special teams are in top form for the post-season.

INTANGIBLES

With former local stars Blake and Luc Robitaille upstairs, the Kings have built a culture of taking care of their own. In Hiller, who played for the Kings in the '90s, they have a coach known for building relationships with players.

CUP ODDS

36/1

ROOKIES

Blue-chip blueline prospect Clarke, who made a splash when his first NHL goal was a breakaway overtime-winner in Boston, will have a full-time role. He has the offensive skills to make up for any deficiencies defensively. Akil Thomas and Alex Turcotte will also be counted on for depth scoring.

X-FACTOR

The next wave's continued emergence is vital for the Kings to return to relevance. If the young guns like Clarke, Byfield, Thomas and Turcotte can ascend to the height of their powers while veterans Doughty and Kopitar remain elite, the Kings could exceed expectations and win a playoff series for the first time since capturing the Stanley Cup in 2014.

THE BRASS

Deep-pocketed owner Philip Anschutz allows former players Blake and Robitaille to take care of the hockey ops and business, respectively, without overly worrying about financial costs. Over the summer, GM Blake hired Hiller as coach and found a way to unload Dubois' bad contract, which will help the cap crunch. Robitaille deserves kudos for a strong rebranding effort.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Kevin Fiala	1. Anze Kopitar	1. Adrian Kempe
2. Trevor Moore	2. Quinton Byfield	2. Warren Foegele
3. Alex Laferriere	3. Phillip Danault	3. Tanner Jeannot
4. Alex Turcotte	4. Akil Thomas	4. Trevor Lewis
5. Samuel Fagemo	5. Jack Studnicka	5. Arthur Kaliyev

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Drew Doughty	6. Jordan Spence	1. Darcy Kuemper
2. Mikey Anderson	7. Kyle Burroughs	2. David Rittich
3. Vladislav Gavrikov	8. Andreas Englund	3. Pheonix Copley
4. Brandt Clarke	9. Jacob Moverare	
5. Joel Edmundson	10. Caleb Jones	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Pierre-Luc Dubois, C; Matt Roy, D; Viktor Arvidsson, LW; Blake Lizotte, C; Carl Grundstrom, RW

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Brandt Clarke
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Ontario (AHL)
Game-changing offensive skill. A true catalyst from the blueline with true star potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Liam Greentree
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Windsor (OHL)
Big, strong power forward led Spitfires in scoring by a mile. Skates well and has a wicked shot.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

3. Alex Turcotte
Pos C **Age** 23
2023-24 Ontario (AHL)
Fearless in pursuit of the puck. His best pro production to date led to 20-game NHL audition.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Carter George
Pos G **Age** 18
2023-24 Owen Sound (OHL)
Canada's No. 1 at world U-18s cuts a slim figure, but he moves well and has solid rebound control.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Samuel Fagemo
Pos LW **Age** 24
2023-24 Ontario (AHL)
Top-10 AHL scorer finished second in goals. Big shot and high motor but defensively vulnerable.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. Francesco Pinelli
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Ontario (AHL)
Well-rounded two-way pivot did a little bit of everything as first-year pro. Has leadership qualities, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Jakub Dvorak
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Swift Current (WHL)
Possesses the traits of a shutdown defender, including willingness to do dirty work on the penalty kill.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Otto Salin
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 TPS (Fin.)
Swift skater joins the rush and activates in possession. One-on-one defense needs fine-tuning.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Jack Hughes
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Boston University (HE)
Modest uptick in scoring after transfer to BU. Creative playmaker, but he hasn't shown that next gear.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Jared Wright
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Denver (NCHC)
Can throw on afterburners to force turnovers or beat defenders. Decent finisher and vision.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
80	
71 Fiala 70 Kempe	
65 Byfield 65 Kopitar	
60	
	Doughty 51
50 Moore	
47 Danault	
40	
	Clarke 36
34 Foegele	
32 Kaliyev	
27 Laferriere	
	Gavrikov 26
25 Turcotte	
	Spence 24
23 Jeannot	
20	
	Anderson 18
16 Lewis	
	Edmundson 15
	Englund 8 Burroughs 7
0	

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	@ Ottawa	1:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 20	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Vegas	11:00 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Utah	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Chicago	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 4	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Vancouver	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Columbus	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	@ Calgary	8:30 PM
Wed, Nov 13	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	vs Buffalo	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Seattle	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Anaheim	3:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 4	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Nashville	1:30 PM
Sun, Dec 22	@ Washington	5:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 1	vs New Jersey	6:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	vs Calgary	10:30 PM
Fri, Jan 10	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 13	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Pittsburgh	10:30 PM
Wed, Jan 22	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 5	vs Montreal	10:30 PM
Fri, Feb 7	vs Dallas	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Utah	9:00 PM
Mon, Feb 24	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Wed, Feb 26	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Feb 28	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 5	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs NY Islanders	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs Washington	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Carolina	4:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs NY Rangers	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Winnipeg	10:30 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	vs Seattle	10:30 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Anaheim	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Colorado	4:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Seattle	10:30 PM

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ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

LOS ANGELES KINGS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Pheonix Copley	32	6-4	205	Left	North Pole, Alaska	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Los Angeles	8	4-1-2	3.16	.870
Carter George	18	6-1	196	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	57th overall (2024)	Owen Sound (OHL)	56	23-21-9	3.30	.907
Darcy Kuemper	34	6-5	215	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Wsh 6/19/24	Washington	33	13-14-3	3.31	.890
Erik Portillo	24	6-6	218	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: Buf 3/1/23	Ontario (AHL)	39	24-11-3	2.50	.918
David Rittich	32	6-4	205	Left	Jihlava, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Los Angeles	24	13-6-3	2.15	.921
Hampton Slukynsky	19	6-1	179	Left	Roseau, Minn.	118th overall (2023)	Fargo (USHL)	33	28-3-0	1.86	.923

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mikey Anderson	25	6-0	195	Left	Roseville, Minn.	103rd overall (2017)	Los Angeles	74	2	16	18	18
Angus Booth	20	6-0	177	Left	Montreal, Que.	116th overall (2022)	Shawinigan/Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)	61	3	25	28	57
Kyle Burroughs	29	6-0	193	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	Trade: SJ 6/27/24	San Jose	73	2	6	8	71
Brandt Clarke	21	6-2	200	Right	Nepean, Ont.	8th overall (2021)	Ontario (AHL)	50	10	36	46	49
Drew Doughty	34	6-1	210	Right	London, Ont.	2nd overall (2008)	Los Angeles	82	15	35	50	44
Braden Doyle	23	5-11	162	Left	Beverly, Mass.	157th overall (2019)	Northeastern (HE)	13	1	0	1	0
Jakub Dvorak	19	6-5	203	Left	Liberec, Cze.	54th overall (2023)	Swift Current (WHL)	21	2	8	10	12
Joel Edmundson	31	6-5	221	Left	Brandon, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Washington/Toronto	53	1	5	6	23
Andreas Englund	28	6-4	200	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Los Angeles	82	1	9	10	81
Vladislav Gavrikov	28	6-3	220	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	Trade: Clb 3/1/23	Los Angeles	77	6	17	23	28
Joe Hicketts	28	5-8	176	Left	Kamloops, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Ontario (AHL)	30	1	19	20	10
Caleb Jones	27	6-1	194	Left	Arlington, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/5/24	Colorado	25	0	5	5	8
Kirill Kirsanov	22	6-1	198	Left	Tver, Rus.	84th overall (2021)	Vityaz Moscow/Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	24	2	2	4	4
Cole Krygier	24	6-3	192	Left	Orlando, Fla.	Trade: Fla 3/20/23	Ontario (AHL)	55	1	10	11	29
Matthew Mania	19	6-1	180	Right	Brandon, Fla.	150th overall (2023)	Sudbury (OHL)	45	4	19	23	28
Ben Meehan	23	6-0	178	Left	Boston, Mass.	140th overall (2020)	UMass-Lowell (HE)	25	1	11	12	31
Jacob Moverare	26	6-3	210	Left	Ostersund, Swe.	112th overall (2016)	Ontario (AHL)	34	2	16	18	12
Otto Salin	20	5-11	187	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	148th overall (2022)	HIFK/TPS (Fin.)	44	3	9	12	8
Jack Sparkes	20	6-7	227	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	180th overall (2022)	Chilliwack (BCHL)	30	2	7	9	66
Jordan Spence	23	5-11	180	Right	Manly, Aus.	95th overall (2019)	Los Angeles	71	2	22	24	12
Reilly Walsh	25	5-11	192	Right	Framingham, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Providence (AHL)	60	9	19	28	14
Jared Woolley	18	6-4	214	Left	Oshawa, Ont.	164th overall (2024)	London (OHL)	37	3	2	5	21

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Quinton Byfield	22	6-5	225	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	2nd overall (2020)	Los Angeles	80	20	35	55	42
Kenny Connors	21	6-1	199	Left	Glen Mills, Pa.	103rd overall (2022)	UMass (HE)	37	7	15	22	14
Phillip Danault	31	6-1	200	Left	Victoriaville, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Los Angeles	78	17	30	47	18
Glenn Gawdin	27	6-1	195	Right	Richmond, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Diego (AHL)	70	22	33	55	53
Samuel Helenius	21	6-6	201	Left	Dallas, Texas	59th overall (2021)	Ontario (AHL)	69	8	11	19	53
Jack Hughes	20	5-11	170	Left	Westwood, Mass.	51st overall (2022)	Boston University (HE)	38	7	12	19	12
Anze Kopitar	37	6-3	225	Left	Jesenice, Slo.	11th overall (2005)	Los Angeles	81	26	44	70	22
Kaleb Lawrence	21	6-7	230	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	215th overall (2022)	Ottawa/London (OHL)	58	20	17	37	89
Trevor Lewis	37	6-1	205	Right	Salt Lake City, Utah	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Los Angeles	82	8	8	16	20
Tyler Madden	24	5-11	170	Right	Albany, N.Y.	Trade: Van 2/17/20	Ontario (AHL)	71	15	19	34	16
Francesco Pinelli	21	6-0	185	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	42nd overall (2021)	Ontario (AHL)	67	13	7	20	24
Jack Studnicka	25	6-1	187	Right	Windsor, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Abbotsford/San Jose (AHL)	36	7	14	21	18
Akil Thomas	24	6-0	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	51st overall (2018)	Ontario (AHL)	64	22	24	46	41
Alex Turcotte	23	5-11	185	Left	Elk Grove, Ill.	5th overall (2019)	Ontario (AHL)	35	10	19	29	12

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Samuel Fagemo	24	6-0	200	Right	Gothenburg, Swe.	Waivers: Nsh 11/11/23	Ontario (AHL)	50	43	19	62	26
Kevin Fiala	28	6-0	205	Left	St. Gallen, Sui.	Trade: Min 6/29/22	Los Angeles	82	29	44	73	62
Warren Foegele	28	6-2	204	Left	Markham, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Edmonton	82	20	21	41	47
Tanner Jeannot	27	6-2	220	Left	Estevan, Sask.	Trade: TB 6/29/24	Tampa Bay	55	7	7	14	75
Andre Lee	24	6-5	206	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	188th overall (2019)	Ontario (AHL)	36	8	5	13	23
Jeff Malott	28	6-5	208	Left	Burlington, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Manitoba (AHL)	70	22	30	52	66
Trevor Moore	29	5-11	195	Left	Thousand Oaks, Calif.	Trade: Tor 2/5/20	Los Angeles	82	31	26	57	28
Bulat Shafigullin	24	6-1	165	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	82nd overall (2018)	Nizhnekamsk (KHL)	56	11	15	26	42

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Martin Chromiak	22	6-0	187	Right	Ilava, Svk.	128th overall (2020)	Ontario (AHL)	70	15	17	32	38
Ryan Conmy	19	5-10	188	Right	Fort Walton Beach, Fla.	182nd overall (2023)	New Hampshire (HE)	34	14	17	31	14
Liam Greentree	18	6-2	207	Left	Oshawa, Ont.	26th overall (2024)	Windsor (OHL)	64	36	54	90	33
Aatu Jamsen	22	6-1	154	Left	Lahti, Fin.	190th overall (2020)	Pelicans (Fin.)	36	14	11	25	16
Arthur Kaliyev	23	6-2	210	Left	Tashkent, Uzb.	33rd overall (2019)	Los Angeles	51	7	8	15	14
Adrian Kempe	28	6-2	200	Left	Kramfors, Swe.	29th overall (2014)	Los Angeles	77	28	47	75	72
Alex Laferriere	22	6-1	205	Right	Chatham, N.J.	83rd overall (2020)	Los Angeles	81	12	11	23	46
James Reeder	18	5-10	168	Right	Glenview, Ill.	198th overall (2024)	Dubuque (USHL)	53	20	40	60	30
Taylor Ward	26	6-2	207	Right	Kelowna, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/19/22	Ontario (AHL)	71	11	21	32	60
Jared Wright	21	6-1	178	Right	Burnsville, Minn.	169th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	44	15	10	25	8
Koehn Ziemmer	19	6-0	202	Right	Mayerthorpe, Alta.	78th overall (2023)	Prince George (WHL)	23	11	20	31	11

MINNESOTA WILD

KIRILL KAPRIZOV

BY SARAH MCLELLAN

DURING THE NEARLY 25 years the Wild have been chasing the Stanley Cup, they've established an identity as a team that is consistently competitive. But that changed dramatically in 2024-25.

Last season, they sputtered early, fired their coach and were sellers at the trade deadline. Although they were better in the second half, the Wild didn't have enough depth to contend, and they missed the playoffs for just the second time in 12 years.

In the off-season, the Wild tried to address some of their problems, but they were limited in what they could spend since almost $15 million of their budget is still being eaten up by the Zach Parise and Ryan Suter buyouts from 2021. This charge will drop significantly next summer, which is a light at the end of the tunnel that could make the interim feel like a stopgap. But after their decline, the Wild have plenty to prove in the meantime.

OFFENSE

The Wild's best players lived up to their billing. Kirill Kaprizov scored 46 goals, one shy of his career high. Joel Eriksson Ek reached 30, and Matt Boldy finished with 29. Together, the trio formed one of the NHL's most dangerous lines. But they had little support. The Wild were too top-heavy, and they buckled without reinforcements lower in their lineup. Marcus Johansson went from chipping in six goals as a 2023 trade-deadline pickup to tallying 11 across an entire season, while Frederick Gaudreau maxed out at five after scoring 19 in 2022-23. Since they couldn't sign an elite scorer, the Wild are hoping for bounce-back performances from their veterans.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
39-34-9 (.530)

OVERTIME
4-7

SHOOTOUT
3-3

OVERALL
20th

OFFENSE
3.02 (21st)

DEFENSE
3.17 (20th)

POWER PLAY
22.7% (10th)

PENALTY KILL
74.5% (30th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.29 (27th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.21 (1st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
K. Kaprizov (21:35)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
B. Faber (24:58)

FAST FACTS

COACH
John Hynes

GM
Bill Guerin

ARENA
Xcel Energy Center

CAPACITY
17,954

AHL AFFILIATE
Iowa Wild

ECHL AFFILIATE
Iowa Heartlanders

PLAYOFF RECORD
8-15 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

DEFENSE

Injuries prevented the Wild defense from being the stabilizing force it's been in the past. Captain Jared Spurgeon was in and out of action before eventually undergoing season-ending hip and back surgeries. Jonas Brodin was also sidelined for a lengthy stretch. But those absences also opened the door for an unforgettable season from Brock Faber. The rookie took on more responsibility – including quarterbacking the power play – and his ice time soared. Without Faber's poise under pressure, the Wild would have been much worse off. He finished runner-up to Chicago's Connor Bedard for the Calder Trophy. If Faber avoids a sophomore slump and his 'D' mates stay healthy, this group could easily regain its stingy style.

GOALTENDING

Like the other positions, the Wild's goaltending was up and down. While Marc-Andre Fleury eclipsed 1,000 games and passed Patrick Roy to become the second-winningest goalie of all-time, Filip Gustavsson slumped. Fleury, 39, is back for his final season, and Gustavsson is under contract, so the Wild could give the duo a do-over – unless they promote top prospect Jesper Wallstedt. After struggling in his debut, Wallstedt rebounded to suggest he's ready for more NHL starts.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play improved under assistant coach Jason King. The highlight was rattling off four goals in a row during a 10-7 comeback against Vancouver. But the penalty kill was an eyesore. At one point, the Wild ranked lower than the worst PK in league history. They recalibrated enough to sidestep that notoriety, but their grim 74.5 percent stoked their swoon – so much so that the team signed defensive winger and PK specialist Yakov Trenin to a four-year, $14-million deal. Associate coach Jack Capuano, hired in the off-season, will work with the penalty-killers.

INTANGIBLES

A slow start and rash of injuries didn't just plummet the Wild down the standings. The adversity also chipped away at their identity. When the Wild are clicking, they're relentless on the puck, gritty along the boards and pesky near the net. They weren't last season, and rediscovering their swagger has been a focus. Trenin and Jakub Lauko, who was added in a draft-day trade with Boston, are known for being tough to play against.

CUP ODDS

55/1

ROOKIES

Wallstedt isn't the only prospect contending for a job. Left winger Liam Ohgren previewed his effectiveness during a four-game stint that included his first NHL goal and assist. And the experience that center Marat Khusnutdinov banked after leaving Russia to join the Wild in March should set him up for a seamless return.

X-FACTOR

Individual success stories are important, but the Wild need more than a few players to set the tone. Case in point: not even Kaprizov's top-10 goal output could salvage the season. The Wild are at their best when everyone is contributing.

THE BRASS

After firing coach Dean Evason in November and bringing in John Hynes, the Wild won more than they lost even though they didn't make the playoffs. Being in charge from the get-go gives Hynes a chance to continue the turnaround.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Kirill Kaprizov	1. Joel Eriksson Ek	1. Matt Boldy
2. Marcus Johansson	2. Marco Rossi	2. Mats Zuccarello
3. Marcus Foligno	3. Ryan Hartman	3. Yakov Trenin
4. Liam Ohgren	4. Marat Khusnutdinov	4. Frederick Gaudreau
5. Jakub Lauko	5. Travis Boyd	5. Brendan Gaunce

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Brock Faber	6. Zach Bogosian	1. Marc-Andre Fleury
2. Jonas Brodin	7. Jon Merrill	2. Filip Gustavsson
3. Jared Spurgeon	8. Daemon Hunt	3. Jesper Wallstedt
4. Jake Middleton	9. Joseph Cecconi	
5. Declan Chisholm	10. Cameron Crotty	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Adam Beckman, LW; Alex Goligoski, D; Vinni Lettieri, C; Jacob Lucchini, C; Dakota Mermis, D; Mason Shaw, C

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

JESPER **WALLSTEDT**

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jesper Wallstedt
Pos G **Age** 21
2023-24 Iowa (AHL)
Wild are taking their time with goalie of the future. Big, confident keeper isn't far off NHL crease.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Zeev Buium
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Denver (NCHC)
Power-play quarterback and mobile offensive blueliner. He's no slouch in his own zone, either.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Danila Yurov
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Magnitogorsk (KHL)
Fast, fiery two-way player skated up and down the lineup. Played secondary role in KHL title win.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

4. Liam Ohgren
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Farjestad (Swe.)
Plays with pace, precision and doesn't shy away from physicality. Captained Sweden's WJC entry.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

5. Marat Khusnutdinov
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Sochi (KHL)
Three-zone player ended last season in NHL after following steady upward trajectory in KHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. Ryder Ritchie
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Prince Albert (WHL)
Top-end speed and puck skills are exciting, but he sometimes has tunnel vision when dashing up ice.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Charlie Stramel
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Wisconsin (Big Ten)
Makes up for lack of high-end scoring by using size to create havoc. Checking center potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Daemon Hunt
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Iowa (AHL)
Rearguard bursts up ice to turn defense into offense. He's on the cusp of regular NHL minutes.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Riley Heidt
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Prince George (WHL)
Pesky pivot mixes impressive scoring with penchant for physical play. Nuisance to play against.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Carson Lambos
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Iowa (AHL)
Plays smart and simple game but isn't afraid to jump into the action. Bigger AHL role coming now.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	105 Kaprizov	
80	73 Boldy	
	67 Eriksson Ek	
	65 Zuccarello	
60		
	48 Rossi	
		Faber 44
40	41 Hartman	
	31 Khusnutdinov	
	30 Foligno	Brodin 31
	25 Johansson	
	24 Gaudreau	
	22 Trenin	
		Middleton 21
20	20 Ohgren	
		Spurgeon 19
	17 Lauko	
	14 Boyd	
		Merrill 12
		Chisholm 10
		Bogosian 8
	7 Johnson	
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	@ Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ St. Louis	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Florida	6:30 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 1	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs Toronto	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Nov 8	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 10	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Calgary	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Chicago	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Philadelphia	2:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	vs Vegas	6:00 PM
Wed, Dec 18	vs Florida	9:30 PM
Fri, Dec 20	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 15	vs Edmonton	8:30 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Colorado	3:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Detroit	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 28	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	vs Boston	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 7	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 19	vs Seattle	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Buffalo	2:00 PM
Mon, Mar 24	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs New Jersey	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 31	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 4	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Dallas	3:00 PM
Wed, Apr 9	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM

TIM GARLAND/IOWA WILD

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

MINNESOTA WILD

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Marc-Andre Fleury	39	6-2	185	Left	Sorel, Que.	Trade: Chi 3/21/22	Minnesota	40	17-15-5	2.98	.895
Troy Grosenick	35	6-1	181	Left	Brookfield, Wis.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	30	17-8-2	2.56	.907
Filip Gustavsson	26	6-2	184	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: Ott 7/12/22	Minnesota	45	20-18-4	3.06	.899
Samuel Hlavaj	23	6-4	218	Left	Martin, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 4/5/24	Plzen (Cze.)	28	8-20-0	3.10	.903
Jesper Wallstedt	21	6-3	214	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	20th overall (2021)	Iowa (AHL)	45	22-19-4	2.70	.910
Chase Wutzke	18	6-2	158	Left	Debden, Sask.	142nd overall (2024)	Red Deer (WHL)	36	19-10-4	2.82	.904

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nate Benoit	21	6-0	168	Left	Concord, N.H.	182nd overall (2021)	North Dakota (NCHC)	19	0	1	1	4
Zach Bogosian	34	6-3	231	Right	Massena, N.Y.	Trade: TB 11/8/23	Tampa Bay/Minnesota	65	3	11	14	63
Jonas Brodin	31	6-2	196	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	10th overall (2011)	Minnesota	62	7	20	27	16
Zeev Buium	18	6-0	183	Left	San Diego, Calif.	12th overall (2024)	Denver (NCHC)	42	11	39	50	20
Joseph Cecconi	27	6-3	210	Right	Youngstown, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Rochester (AHL)	58	1	12	13	60
Declan Chisholm	24	6-1	190	Left	Bowmanville, Ont.	Waivers: Wpg 1/29/24	Winnipeg/Minnesota	31	3	6	9	18
Cameron Crotty	25	6-3	182	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Tucson (AHL)	55	3	10	13	28
Brock Faber	22	6-1	200	Right	Maple Grove, Minn.	Trade: LA 6/29/22	Minnesota	82	8	39	47	26
Ryan Healey	20	6-0	172	Right	Chicago, Ill.	121st overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	29	9	13	22	12
Daemon Hunt	22	6-1	201	Left	Brandon, Man.	65th overall (2020)	Iowa (AHL)	51	3	26	29	29
Aron Kiviharju	18	5-9	170	Left	Esbjerg, Den.	122nd overall (2024)	HIFK (Fin.)	7	1	1	2	0
Carson Lambos	21	6-1	197	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	26th overall (2021)	Iowa (AHL)	69	4	10	14	64
Stevie Leskovar	20	6-3	207	Left	Cambridge, Ont.	174th overall (2024)	Mississauga (OHL)	61	2	10	12	113
Kyle Masters	21	6-0	177	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	118th overall (2021)	Iowa (ECHL)	32	4	15	19	2
Jon Merrill	32	6-3	204	Left	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Free Agent: signed 7/29/21	Minnesota	65	4	7	11	30
Jake Middleton	28	6-3	219	Left	Wainwright, Alta.	Trade: SJ 3/21/22	Minnesota	80	7	18	25	77
Ryan O'Rourke	22	6-1	179	Left	Pickering, Ont.	39th overall (2020)	Iowa (AHL)	70	3	9	12	62
Kalem Parker	19	6-0	192	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	181st overall (2023)	Victoria/Moose Jaw (WHL)	65	6	36	42	42
Jack Peart	21	5-11	186	Left	Grand Rapids, Minn.	54th overall (2021)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	38	3	11	14	18
Aaron Pionk	21	6-1	170	Left	Hermantown, Minn.	149th overall (2023)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	37	3	17	20	22
Sebastian Soini	18	6-2	183	Right	Tampere Fin.	140th overall (2024)	Koovee (Fin.2)	32	0	8	8	12
David Spacek	21	6-0	174	Right	Columbus, Ohio	153rd overall (2022)	Iowa (AHL)	61	3	9	12	21
Jared Spurgeon	34	5-9	166	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 9/23/10	Minnesota	16	0	5	5	2

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Caedan Bankier	21	6-2	192	Left	White Rock, B.C.	86th overall (2021)	Iowa (AHL)	51	13	10	23	22
Travis Boyd	31	6-0	190	Right	Hopkins, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Arizona	16	2	6	8	2
Joel Eriksson Ek	27	6-3	207	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	20th overall (2015)	Minnesota	77	30	34	64	60
Frederick Gaudreau	31	6-0	184	Right	Bromont, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Minnesota	67	5	10	15	12
Brendan Gaunce	30	6-3	219	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	46	19	20	39	37
Matvey Guskov	23	6-2	182	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	149th overall (2019)	Ufa (KHL)	35	2	5	7	10
Hunter Haight	20	5-10	173	Right	Strathroy, Ont.	47th overall (2022)	Saginaw (OHL)	68	25	42	67	28
Riley Heidt	19	5-10	178	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	64th overall (2023)	Prince George (WHL)	66	37	80	117	42
Reese Johnson	26	6-1	193	Right	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Chicago	42	2	3	5	40
Ben Jones	25	6-0	187	Left	Waterloo, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Calgary (AHL)	72	21	22	43	59
Marat Khusnutdinov	22	5-11	176	Left	Moscow, Rus.	37th overall (2020)	St. Petersburg/Sochi (KHL)	55	6	14	20	10
Rasmus Kumpulainen	19	6-2	191	Left	Lahti, Fin.	53rd overall (2023)	Oshawa (OHL)	58	28	28	56	48
Jakub Lauko	24	6-1	193	Left	Prague, Cze.	Trade: Bos 6/29/24	Boston	60	2	8	10	32
Marco Rossi	23	5-9	182	Left	Feldkirch, Aut.	9th overall (2020)	Minnesota	82	21	19	40	47
Devin Shore	30	6-1	206	Left	Ajax, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	39	7	18	25	4
Charlie Stramel	19	6-3	212	Right	St. Paul, Minn.	21st overall (2023)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	34	3	5	8	20
Yakov Trenin	27	6-2	201	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Nashville/Colorado	76	12	5	17	40
Sammy Walker	25	5-10	180	Right	Edina, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 8/18/22	Iowa (AHL)	70	14	31	45	24

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Matt Boldy	23	6-2	201	Left	Milford, Mass.	12th overall (2019)	Minnesota	75	29	40	69	48
James Clark	20	6-0	179	Left	Edina, Minn.	213th overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	5	6	11	4
Marcus Foligno	33	6-3	226	Left	Buffalo, N.Y.	Trade: Buf 6/30/17	Minnesota	55	10	12	22	59
Marcus Johansson	33	6-1	203	Left	Landskrona, Swe.	Trade: Wsh 2/28/23	Minnesota	78	11	19	30	22
Kirill Kaprizov	27	5-10	202	Left	Novokuznetsk, Rus.	135th overall (2015)	Minnesota	75	46	50	96	36
Rieger Lorenz	20	6-3	205	Left	Calgary, Alta.	56th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	44	16	14	30	10
Michael Milne	22	5-11	185	Left	Abbotsford, B.C.	89th overall (2022)	Iowa (AHL)	40	8	13	21	34
Liam Ohgren	20	6-0	187	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	19th overall (2022)	Farjestad (Swe.)	26	12	7	19	12
Luke Toporowski	23	5-11	181	Left	Davenport, Iowa	Trade: Bos 3/8/24	Providence/Iowa (AHL)	66	12	16	28	40

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Graeme Clarke	23	6-0	175	Right	Waconia, Minn.	Trade: NJ 6/21/24	Utica (AHL)	67	25	24	49	30
Ryan Hartman	30	6-0	197	Right	Hilton Head Island, S.C.	Trade: Dal 6/24/19	Minnesota	74	21	24	45	72
Pavel Novak	22	5-9	170	Right	Tabor, Cze.	146th overall (2020)	Iowa (ECHL)	44	14	13	27	26
Adam Raska	23	5-10	178	Right	Frydek-Mistek, Cze.	Trade: SJ 11/8/23	San Jose/Iowa (AHL)	56	3	4	7	98
Ryder Ritchie	18	6-0	175	Right	Calgary, Alta.	45th overall (2024)	Prince Albert (WHL)	47	19	25	44	24
Danila Yurov	20	6-1	178	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	24th overall (2022)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	62	21	28	49	35
Mats Zuccarello	37	5-8	181	Left	Oslo, Nor.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	Minnesota	69	12	51	63	30

MONTREAL CANADIENS

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BY STU COWAN

THE MONTREAL CANADIENS' rebuild will continue this season after the Habs missed the playoffs for the third straight year. A season-ending knee injury to center Kirby Dach in the second game last year threw a wrench into the rebuilding plans. Dach is expected to be ready to start 2024-25, but the big question is whether he can stay healthy.

After sending away late first-round picks to acquire Dach and Alex Newhook at the previous two drafts, the Canadiens chose to keep their powder dry this time around. Instead, they selected center Michael Hage at No. 23 after taking right winger Ivan Demidov fifth overall. Demidov has one year left on his KHL contract with St. Petersburg, while Hage is headed to the University of Michigan.

The fans in Montreal have been patient during this rebuild, and they will have to be patient again this season. A playoff spot is unlikely for a team that will again lack offense from its forwards.

OFFENSE

The Canadiens will once again be counting heavily on their No. 1 line of Nick Suzuki between Juraj Slafkovsky and Cole Caufield. The trio combined for 81 goals last season, and they were the only three Habs to hit the 20-goal mark. Mike Matheson is coming off a breakout year in which he posted 62 points to finish ninth among NHL defensemen. The Canadiens ranked 26th in offense but tied for fourth in goals by defensemen. Coach Martin St-Louis talks about "concepts" instead of "systems" and has to get more offense from his forwards – especially power winger Josh Anderson, who had just nine goals last season.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
30-36-16 (.463)

OVERTIME
6-8

SHOOTOUT
4-8

OVERALL
28th

OFFENSE
2.83 GPG (26th)

DEFENSE
3.43 GAA (27th)

POWER PLAY
17.5% (27th)

PENALTY KILL
76.5% (24th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.50 (22nd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.89 (30th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Suzuki (21:16)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Matheson (25:33)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Martin St-Louis

GM
Kent Hughes

ARENA
Bell Centre

CAPACITY
21,105

AHL AFFILIATE
Laval Rocket

ECHL AFFILIATE
Trois-Rivieres Lions

PLAYOFF RECORD
18-14 (since 2020)

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

COLE CAUFIELD

DEFENSE

The Canadiens have accumulated an abundance of prospect defensemen during their rebuild, and they still have veterans Matheson and David Savard, along with 2020 first-rounder Kaiden Guhle, who established himself as a full-time NHLer. The arrival of Lane Hutson will add more offensive punch. The June 30 trade of Johnathan Kovacevic to New Jersey opened a spot on the blueline, and there will be competition for jobs and ice time between Jordan Harris, Arber Xhekaj, Jayden Struble, Justin Barron and Logan Mailloux. Hutson and Mailloux made their NHL debuts at the end of last season.

GOALTENDING

There will no longer be a three-man rotation in the crease after Jake Allen was dealt to New Jersey at the trade deadline. Sam Montembeault, entering the first season of a three-year, $9.45-million contract ($3.15-million AAV), will be the undisputed No. 1, with Cayden Primeau as the backup. Primeau is heading into the final season of his contract and will push Montembeault for playing time.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Special teams have been a big problem for the Canadiens, who ranked 27th on the power play and 24th on the penalty kill last season. Assistant coach Alex Burrows, who was in charge of the power play, won't be back behind the bench after taking a new role as a player-development consultant. Suzuki, Caufield and Slafkovsky combined for 27 of the team's 44 power-play goals last year. Matheson had five goals and 28 points on the power play. Savard is a shot-blocking machine – averaging eight blocks per 60 minutes – especially on the penalty kill. Montreal ranked seventh in the NHL in penalty minutes, putting added pressure on the PK.

INTANGIBLES

The players love playing for St-Louis. They respect the Hall of Famer and are buying into his modern concepts. GM Kent Hughes believes the team will grow "organically" under the leadership of captain Suzuki and be better because of continuity with the young players. This is a close-knit dressing room with the young players developing a brotherhood. Hughes also noted that injuries have been a major issue the past couple of seasons.

CUP ODDS

65/1

ROOKIES

Hutson will provide an offensive boost – especially on the power play – after putting up 30 goals and 97 points in 77 games over the past two seasons at Boston University. He had two assists in the two NHL games he played at the end of last season. His size – 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds – is a concern.

X-FACTOR

The No. 1 line has to keep producing, Dach must stay healthy, and Hutson has to show he can perform at the NHL level for the Habs to have any shot at the playoffs. Anderson also needs to deliver a rebound season with three years left on his contract at an annual $5.5-million salary-cap hit.

THE BRASS

Jeff Gorton, the executive vice-president of hockey operations, Hughes and St-Louis are all on the same page with the rebuilding plan and have the full support of ownership. It's a solid plan, but it will be at least another year until Montreal is a legitimate contender for a spot in the post-season.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Juraj Slafkovsky	1. Nick Suzuki	1. Cole Caufield
2. Alex Newhook	2. Kirby Dach	2. Joshua Roy
3. Josh Anderson	3. Christian Dvorak	3. Brendan Gallagher
4. Rafael Harvey-Pinard	4. Jake Evans	4. Joel Armia
5. Michael Pezzetta	5. Owen Beck	5. Alex Barre-Boulet

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mike Matheson	6. Justin Barron	1. Sam Montembeault
2. Kaiden Guhle	7. Arber Xhekaj	2. Cayden Primeau
3. David Savard	8. Jayden Struble	3. Jakub Dobes
4. Lane Hutson	9. Logan Mailloux	
5. Jordan Harris	10. David Reinbacher	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Johnathan Kovacevic, D; Tanner Pearson, LW; Jesse Ylonen, RW; Colin White, C

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Ivan Demidov
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 SKA-1946 Jr. (Rus.)
Smart, skilled and confident. High-caliber scorer beats defenders with his puckhandling gifts.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. David Reinbacher
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Kloten (Sui.)
Able to organize a power play, and he makes quality first passes. Few concerns defensively, either.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Lane Hutson
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Boston University (HE)
Slippery skater who fits mold of the modern offensive D-man. Can produce moments of magic.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Michael Hage
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Chicago (USHL)
Reads the ice and attacks open areas with speed. Own-zone play will need to be ironed out.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Owen Beck
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Saginaw (OHL)
Reliable 200-foot player who profiles as potential Selke type. Helped Saginaw to Memorial Cup.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

6. Joshua Roy
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Laval (AHL)
Proving doubters wrong to become high-scoring pro winger. His 23-game NHL stint was earned.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

7. Filip Mesar
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Kitchener (OHL)
Still adjusting to North American game, but he can produce high-skill plays at top-end speeds.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Logan Mailloux
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Laval (AHL)
AHL all-rookie defender led first-year blueliners in goals. Notched assist in first NHL game April 16.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

9. Jacob Fowler
Pos G **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
Solid fundamentals and great ability to burst into position. Saw three games for U.S. at WJC.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Adam Engstrom
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Rogle (Swe.)
Reads and reacts well, especially when jumping into the play. Skilled passer with good stride.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	74 Suzuki 74 Slafkovsky 72 Caufield	
60	58 Dach 54 Newhook	Matheson 56
40	33 Roy 32 Gallagher 29 Evans 25 Anderson 25 Dvorak	Guhle 24 Mailloux 23 Hutson 23
20	19 Armia 17 Harvey-Pinard 11 Pezzetta	Savard 19 Barron 16 Harris 12 Xhekaj 11 Struble 10
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 10	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs NY Rangers	7:15 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	@ Buffalo	12:30 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 26	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Columbus	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 1	@ Boston	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 9	vs Anaheim	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Vegas	3:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 10	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 19	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ Anaheim	4:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Wed, Feb 5	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs New Jersey	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 9	vs Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Calgary	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 12	@ Seattle	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	vs Carolina	7:00 PM

YURY KUZMIN/KHL PHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

MONTREAL CANADIENS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Emmett Croteau	20	6-3	220	Left	Bonnyville, Alta.	162nd overall (2022)	Clarkson (ECAC)	6	2-3-0	3.53	.835
Jakub Dobes	23	6-4	205	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	136th overall (2020)	Laval (AHL)	51	24-18-6	2.93	.906
Jacob Fowler	19	6-1	223	Left	Melbourne, Fla.	69th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	39	32-6-1	2.14	.926
Connor Hughes	28	6-4	225	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 6/4/24	Lausanne (Sui.)	19	10-6-1	1.73	.940
Quentin Miller	19	6-3	185	Left	Montreal, Que.	128th overall (2023)	Quebec/Rimouski (QMJHL)	42	22-17-1	2.87	.907
Sam Montembeault	27	6-3	222	Left	Becancour, Que.	Waivers: Fla 10/2/21	Montreal	41	16-15-9	3.14	.903
Carey Price	37	6-3	217	Left	Anahim Lake, B.C.	5th overall (2005)	Montreal	-	DNP	-	-
Cayden Primeau	25	6-3	207	Left	Farmington Hills, Mich.	199th overall (2017)	Montreal	23	8-9-4	2.99	.910
Mikus Vecvanags	18	6-3	159	Left	Riga, Lat.	134th overall (2024)	HS Riga (Lat.)	16	N/A	3.00	.908
Yevgeni Volokhin	19	6-0	159	Left	Khanty-Mansiysk, Rus.	144th overall (2023)	Khanty-Mansiysk Jr. (Rus.)	31	22-4-4	1.57	.938
Joe Vrbetic	21	6-6	198	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	214th overall (2021)	Trois-Rivieres (ECHL)	33	10-14-3	3.52	.891
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Justin Barron	22	6-2	202	Right	Halifax, N.S.	Trade: Col 3/21/22	Montreal	48	7	6	13	16
Rasmus Bergqvist	19	6-2	181	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	224th overall (2024)	Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)	36	4	8	12	30
Adam Engstrom	20	6-2	193	Left	Jarna, Swe.	92nd overall (2022)	Rogle (Swe.)	51	4	18	22	4
Kaiden Guhle	22	6-3	201	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	16th overall (2020)	Montreal	70	6	16	22	56
Jordan Harris	24	5-11	189	Left	Haverhill, Mass.	71st overall (2018)	Montreal	56	3	11	14	22
Lane Hutson	20	5-9	158	Left	Holland, Mich.	62nd overall (2022)	Boston University (HE)	38	15	34	49	24
Bogdan Konyushkov	21	5-11	176	Right	Penza, Rus.	110th overall (2023)	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	65	6	22	28	18
Dmitri Kostenko	22	6-1	187	Right	Togliatti, Rus.	87th overall (2021)	Voskresensk/Khanty-Mansiysk (Rus.2)	42	11	14	25	48
Logan Mailloux	21	6-3	220	Right	Belle River, Ont.	31st overall (2021)	Laval (AHL)	72	14	33	47	91
Mike Matheson	30	6-2	196	Left	Pointe-Claire, Que	Trade: Pit 7/16/22	Montreal	82	11	51	62	58
Luke Mittelstadt	21	5-11	178	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	197th overall (2023)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	38	2	18	20	14
Owen Protz	18	6-1	213	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	102nd overall (2024)	Sudbury/Brantford (OHL)	66	3	16	19	49
David Reinbacher	19	6-3	209	Right	Hohenems, Aut.	5th overall (2023)	Kloten (Sui.)	35	1	10	11	18
David Savard	33	6-1	238	Right	St-Hyacinthe, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Montreal	60	6	18	24	24
Daniil Sobolev	21	6-0	208	Right	St. Petersburg, Rus.	142nd overall (2021)	Niagara/Brantford (OHL)	64	7	18	25	63
Jayden Struble	23	6-0	202	Left	Cumberland, R.I.	46th overall (2019)	Montreal	56	3	7	10	57
William Trudeau	21	6-0	196	Left	Varennes, Que.	113th overall (2021)	Laval (AHL)	70	8	16	24	69
Arber Xhekaj	23	6-4	240	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/4/21	Montreal	44	3	7	10	81
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Alex Barre-Boulet	27	5-10	178	Left	Montmagny, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Tampa Bay	36	6	3	9	10
Owen Beck	20	6-0	190	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	33rd overall (2022)	Peterborough/Saginaw (OHL)	57	34	47	81	18
Blake Biondi	22	6-0	197	Right	Duluth, Minn.	109th overall (2020)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	34	8	11	19	29
Lucas Condotta	27	6-1	217	Left	Georgetown, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/22	Laval (AHL)	65	8	11	19	43
Kirby Dach	23	6-4	217	Right	Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.	Trade: Chi 7/7/22	Montreal	2	0	2	2	0
Jared Davidson	22	5-11	188	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	130th overall (2022)	Laval (AHL)	38	11	5	16	31
Christian Dvorak	28	6-1	192	Left	Palos, Ill.	Trade: Ari 9/4/21	Montreal	30	5	4	9	4
Filip Eriksson	19	5-11	179	Left	Ljungby, Swe.	165th overall (2023)	Vaxjo (Swe.)	29	0	6	6	4
Jake Evans	28	6-1	187	Right	Toronto, Ont.	207th overall (2014)	Montreal	82	7	21	28	24
Sean Farrell	22	5-9	181	Left	Milford, Mass.	124th overall (2020)	Laval (AHL)	47	9	19	28	10
Brandon Gignac	26	5-11	170	Left	Repentigny, Que.	Free Agent: signed 2/4/24	Laval (AHL)	61	19	36	55	46
Michael Hage	18	6-1	187	Right	Oakville, Ont.	21st overall (2024)	Chicago (USHL)	54	33	42	75	53
Oliver Kapanen	21	6-0	166	Right	Timra, Swe.	64th overall (2021)	KalPa (Fin.)	51	14	20	34	32
Riley Kidney	21	5-11	181	Left	Halifax, N.S.	63rd overall (2021)	Laval (AHL)	65	7	13	20	4
Aatos Koivu	18	6-1	170	Right	Turku, Fin.	70th overall (2024)	TPS Jr. (Fin.)	28	16	15	31	32
Ben Merrill	18	6-3	190	Right	Hingham, Mass.	166th overall (2024)	St. Sebastian's (USHS)	25	18	19	37	-
Alex Newhook	23	5-11	199	Left	St. John's, Nfld.	Trade: Col 6/27/23	Montreal	55	15	19	34	18
Vinzenz Rohrer	20	5-11	173	Right	Rankweil, Aut.	75th overall (2022)	Zurich (Sui.)	49	7	12	19	10
Logan Sawyer	18	6-1	173	Left	Orangeville, Ont.	78th overall (2024)	Brooks (AJHL/BCHL)	59	35	43	78	28
Xavier Simoneau	23	5-7	178	Left	Gatineau, Que.	191st overall (2021)	Laval (AHL)	53	9	28	37	111
Ty Smilanic	22	6-0	171	Left	Elizabeth, Colo.	Trade: Fla 3/16/22	Trois-Rivieres (ECHL)	31	1	6	7	16
Jack Smith	22	5-11	185	Left	St. Cloud, Minn.	102nd overall (2020)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	34	3	9	12	12
Nick Suzuki	25	5-11	212	Right	London, Ont.	Trade: Veg 9/10/18	Montreal	82	33	44	77	36
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Sam Harris	20	5-11	180	Left	Carlsbad, Calif.	133rd overall (2023)	Denver (NCHC)	42	14	7	21	27
Rafael Harvey-Pinard	25	5-9	184	Left	Saguenay, Que.	201st overall (2019)	Montreal	45	2	8	10	6
Emil Heineman	22	6-0	202	Left	Leksand, Swe.	Trade: Cgy 2/14/22	Laval (AHL)	48	15	14	29	25
Michael Pezzetta	26	6-1	217	Left	Toronto, Ont.	160th overall (2016)	Montreal	61	3	9	12	59
Rhett Pitlick	23	5-10	170	Left	Coral Springs, Fla.	131st overall (2019)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	19	17	36	14
Juraj Slafkovsky	20	6-3	230	Left	Kosice, Svk.	1st overall (2022)	Montreal	82	20	30	50	55
Luke Tuch	22	6-3	209	Left	Syracuse, N.Y.	47th overall (2020)	Boston University (HE)	39	10	20	30	10
Florian Xhekaj	20	6-3	188	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	101st overall (2023)	Brantford (OHL)	63	34	31	65	81
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Josh Anderson	30	6-3	224	Right	Burlington, Ont.	Trade: Clb 10/6/20	Montreal	78	9	11	20	74
Joel Armia	31	6-3	216	Right	Pori, Fin.	Trade: Wpg 6/30/18	Montreal	66	17	8	25	34
Cole Caufield	23	5-8	175	Right	Mosinee, Wis.	15th overall (2019)	Montreal	82	28	37	65	16
Ivan Demidov	18	6-1	192	Left	Sergiyev Posad, Rus.	5th overall (2024)	SKA-1946 St. Pete. Jr. (Rus.)	30	23	37	60	20
Brendan Gallagher	32	5-9	183	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	147th overall (2010)	Montreal	77	16	15	31	74
Alexander Gordin	23	6-1	194	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	171st overall (2020)	Ryazan (Rus.2)	53	18	22	40	31
Makar Khanin	19	6-0	161	Right	Salavat, Rus.	210th overall (2024)	Dynamo St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	35	9	18	27	8
Filip Mesar	20	5-10	179	Right	Kezmarok, Svk.	26th overall (2022)	Kitchener (OHL)	45	19	33	52	12
Jacob Perreault	22	5-11	196	Right	Montreal, Que.	Trade: Ana 3/7/24	San Diego/Laval (AHL)	44	8	12	20	63
Joshua Roy	21	6-0	192	Left	St-Georges-De-Beauce, Que.	150th overall (2021)	Laval (AHL)	41	13	19	32	12
Tyler Thorpe	19	6-5	210	Right	Richmond, B.C.	130th overall (2024)	Vancouver (WHL)	51	23	21	44	30

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

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BY DAVID BOCLAIR

THERE WAS A CERTAIN uncertainty about expectations for the Predators last year, their first season with Barry Trotz as GM. No one within the franchise talked about a rebuild, but that seemed to be the Preds' destiny before an 18-game point streak (16-0-2), beginning in mid-February, turned them into a playoff team.

There is absolute clarity this time after Trotz signed forwards Steven Stamkos (four years, $32 million) and Jonathan Marchessault (five years, $27.5 million), along with defenseman Brady Skjei (seven years, $49 million) in the opening hours of free agency. That trio joins a lineup that returns eight of its top 10 scorers, six of its top seven defensemen and its starting goalie.

This is a team that expects to win – and now.

>OFFENSE

Only two players ever have scored 40 goals for Nashville. Filip Forsberg did it twice (2021-22, 2023-24), and Matt Duchene did it once (2021-22). In Stamkos and Marchessault, the Predators added two players who did it last year. Stamkos hit the mark (40 goals in 79 games) for the seventh time in his 16-year career and the third time in the past six seasons. Marchessault scored a career-high 42 goals, the sixth time in eight seasons that he notched 25 or more. Those two combined with Forsberg and last year's big UFA additions, Ryan O'Reilly and Gustav Nyquist, give Nashville two bona fide scoring lines. That takes the pressure off of youngsters Tommy Novak, Cody Glass, Luke Evangelista and Philip Tomasino to produce consistently. Meanwhile, no NHL defenseman has more goals (88) or points (338) over the past five seasons than Roman Josi, who remains vital to Nashville's attack.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
47-30-5 (.604)

OVERTIME
6-5

SHOOTOUT
3-0

OVERALL
11th

OFFENSE
3.24 (10th)

DEFENSE
3.02 (14th)

POWER PLAY
21.6% (16th)

PENALTY KILL
76.9% (22nd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.83 (3rd)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.51 (13th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
R. O'Reilly (19:46)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Josi (24:38)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Andrew Brunette

GM
Barry Trotz

ARENA
Bridgestone Arena

CAPACITY
17,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Milwaukee Admirals

ECHL AFFILIATE
Atlanta Gladiators

PLAYOFF RECORD
5-15 (since 2020)

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

ROMAN JOSI

DEFENSE

Trotz still wants his team to be bigger and tougher overall on the blueline, but with the addition of Skjei (6-foot-3, 210 pounds), half of the Preds' top six are 6-foot-2 or taller and 210 pounds or heavier. Josi, of course, is the headliner after another stellar season in which he was the Norris Trophy runner-up and named a first-team all-star. The three-zone stud has taken more than 250 shots in four of the past five seasons. The decision to re-sign Alexandre Carrier (three years, $11.25 million) stabilizes the back half of the group, which includes Jeremy Lauzon, Dante Fabbro and Spencer Stastney, all of whom are 27 or younger.

GOALTENDING

Juuse Saros had been the subject of trade rumors for more than a year. Now, he has an eight-year, $61.92-million contract extension that starts in 2025-26. The deal came together weeks after 21-year-old Yaroslav Askarov, a scintillating prospect, struggled in the AHL playoffs (3.25 goals-against average, .882 save percentage). The 29-year-old Saros has led or tied for the lead among NHL goalies in games played in each of the past three seasons, and his .917 career SP is one of the best marks among active stoppers.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Stamkos is the kind of finisher Nashville has never had on its power play. He's scored 16 or more PP goals five times, including 19 last year. Nashville's franchise record is 16, by Duchene in 2021-22, and no one else has scored more than 14. The Predators' power play improved last season, its first under coach Andrew Brunette, with 14 more goals in just 19 more opportunities than the previous campaign. The unit's 21.6-percent success rate tied for second-best in franchise history. Any kind of backward step this season would be a big disappointment.

INTANGIBLES

Trotz has made no secret that he covets "serial winners." In 2023, he added one free agent who was part of Tampa Bay's back-to-back Stanley Cup teams in 2020 and 2021 (Luke Schenn) and one who was a Conn Smythe Trophy winner for another champion (O'Reilly with St. Louis in 2019). Trotz repeated that formula this summer with Stamkos, a two-time winner with Tampa Bay, and Marchessault, the Conn Smythe winner with Vegas in 2023.

CUP ODDS

25/1

ROOKIES

Askarov remains the Preds' most exciting prospect, but Saros' extension and the addition of veteran Scott Wedgewood (two years, $3 million) means the No. 11 pick in 2020 should expect to remain in the AHL and focus on development for most, if not all, of this season.

X-FACTOR

A year ago, Trotz challenged Forsberg to be Nashville's best player. The result was career highs in goals (48), assists (46) and points (94). Now, Forsberg must be even better and mesh his game with the high-profile newcomers rather than rely on them to carry the offense.

THE BRASS

In less than two years on the job, Trotz has looked much more aggressive and adaptable as a GM than he did as a coach. He said he didn't expect Stamkos to get to free agency but altered his plan at the last minute to land the two-time Rocket Richard Trophy winner.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

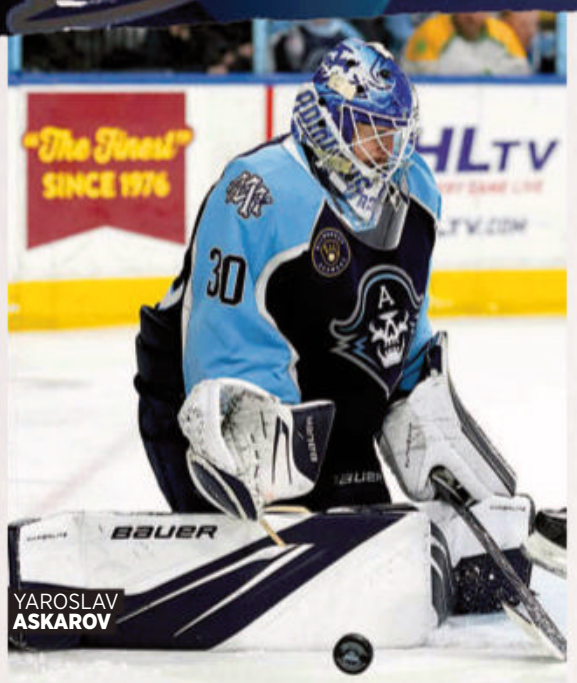
LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Filip Forsberg	1. Steven Stamkos	1. Jonathan Marchessault
2. Gustav Nyquist	2. Ryan O'Reilly	2. Luke Evangelista
3. Cole Smith	3. Tommy Novak	3. Cody Glass
4. Juuso Parssinen	4. Colton Sissons	4. Michael McCarron
5. Zachary L'Heureux	5. Mark Jankowski	5. Philip Tomasino

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Roman Josi	6. Dante Fabbro	1. Juuse Saros
2. Brady Skjei	7. Spencer Stastney	2. Scott Wedgewood
3. Alexandre Carrier	8. Marc Del Gaizo	3. Yaroslav Askarov
4. Jeremy Lauzon	9. Ryan Ufko	
5. Luke Schenn	10. Nick Blankenburg	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Ryan McDonagh, D; Tyson Barrie, D; Kiefer Sherwood, LW; Denis Gurianov, RW; Anthony Beauvillier, LW; Kevin Lankinen, G

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS



YAROSLAV **ASKAROV**

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Yaroslav Askarov
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 Milwaukee (AHL)
A standout everywhere he's played and destined to become an NHL starter. Off-the-charts athlete.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Joakim Kemell
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Milwaukee (AHL)
Breakout year capped by near point-per-game playoff. Quick release and heavy, accurate shot.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Tanner Molendyk
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Saskatoon (WHL)
Patience with puck creates passing and shooting lanes. He's always looking to progress play.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Egor Surin
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)
Pairs sandpaper and skill with heaps of hockey sense. Gets under skin and onto the scoresheet.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Fedor Svechkov
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Milwaukee (AHL)
Surprising rookie output, but equally welcome was his two-way play in first AHL season.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

6. Matthew Wood
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Connecticut (HE)
Still growing into frame, but uses size and strength to create space. Transferred to NCAA Minnesota.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Teddy Stiga
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
Noticeable every shift and always in prime position to make something happen. Small but speedy.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Zach L'Heureux
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Milwaukee (AHL)
Plays on – and often steps over – the line. See: 197 PIM last season. He can score in bunches, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Reid Schaefer
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Milwaukee (AHL)
Reliable bottom-six option for now. Top junior scorer's offensive skill hasn't translated yet.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Spencer Stastney
Pos D **Age** 24
2023-24 Milwaukee (AHL)
Deceivingly rugged 1-on-1 defender. To his benefit, he doesn't try to play beyond his limits.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS		DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	81 Forsberg	Josi 80
	74 Stamkos	
	65 O'Reilly 65 Nyquist	
60	60 Marchessault	
	58 Evangelista	
		Skjei 46
	45 Novak	
40		
	38 Glass	
	33 Sissons	
	30 Tomasino	
	23 McCarron	Carrier 23
	23 Smith	
	21 Parssinen	
20		
	18 Jankowski	
		Fabbro 17
		Lauzon 12
		Stastney 11
		Schenn 5
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Detroit	2:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Boston	8:30 PM
Fri, Oct 25	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 4	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 6	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	@ Vancouver	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Wed, Dec 4	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Los Angeles	1:30 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Mon, Dec 30	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Calgary	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 3	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 7	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Colorado	6:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs New Jersey	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ NY Islanders	12:30 PM
Sun, Mar 2	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 14	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	@ St. Louis	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs Vegas	6:30 PM
Mon, Mar 31	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	vs Dallas	8:00 PM

SCOTT PAULUS/MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Yaroslav Askarov	22	6-3	178	Right	Omsk, Rus.	11th overall (2020)	Milwaukee (AHL)	44	30-13-1	2.39	.911
Ethan Haider	23	6-4	198	Left	St. Louis Park, Minn.	148th overall (2019)	Connecticut (HE)	21	7-11-2	2.91	.906
Juha Jatkola	22	6-1	176	Left	Kuopio, Fin.	121st overall (2023)	KalPa (Fin.)	34	12-16-5	2.69	.875
Jakub Milota	18	6-1	170	Left	Ostrava, Cze.	99th overall (2024)	Cape Breton (QMJHL)	33	18-11-1	2.82	.905
Matt Murray	26	6-1	196	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Texas (AHL)	31	14-15-2	3.02	.896
Juuse Saros	29	5-11	180	Left	Forssa, Fin.	99th overall (2013)	Nashville	64	35-24-5	2.86	.906
Scott Wedgewood	32	6-2	201	Left	Brampton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Dallas	32	16-7-5	2.85	.899
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Nick Blankenburg	26	5-9	177	Right	Washington, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Cleveland (AHL)	24	3	10	13	22
Alexandre Carrier	27	5-11	174	Right	Quebec City, Que.	115th overall (2015)	Nashville	73	4	16	20	44
Semyon Chystyakov	23	5-10	167	Left	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	117th overall (2019)	Omsk (KHL)	59	4	20	24	16
Marc Del Gaizo	24	5-11	188	Left	Basking Ridge, N.J.	109th overall (2019)	Milwaukee (AHL)	60	8	26	34	34
Dante Fabbro	26	6-0	189	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	17th overall (2016)	Nashville	56	3	10	13	24
Andrew Gibson	19	6-3	196	Right	Windsor, Ont.	Trade: Det 6/25/24	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	68	12	32	44	58
Kevin Gravel	32	6-4	205	Left	Kingsford, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Milwaukee (AHL)	63	1	9	10	18
Viggo Gustafsson	18	6-2	194	Left	Tingsryd, Swe.	77th overall (2024)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	41	3	16	19	44
Jeremy Hanzel	21	6-0	190	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	Trade: Col 3/7/24	Seattle (WHL)	66	17	43	60	40
Roman Josi	34	6-1	201	Left	Bern, Sui.	38th overall (2008)	Nashville	82	23	62	85	45
Kasper Kulonummi	20	6-1	181	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	84th overall (2022)	Tappara (Fin.)	40	0	4	4	4
Jeremy Lauzon	27	6-3	225	Left	Val-d'Or, Que.	Trade: Sea 3/20/22	Nashville	79	6	8	14	98
Jake Livingstone	25	6-4	213	Right	Creston, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/29/23	Milwaukee (AHL)	68	2	15	17	43
Dylan MacKinnon	19	6-4	189	Right	Riverview, N.B.	83rd overall (2023)	Halifax (QMJHL)	64	3	13	16	48
Jack Matier	21	6-6	205	Right	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	124th overall (2021)	Atlanta (ECHL)	52	6	11	17	26
Tanner Molendyk	19	6-1	182	Left	McBride, B.C.	24th overall (2023)	Saskatoon (WHL)	50	10	46	56	18
Anton Olsson	21	6-2	202	Left	Helsingborg, Swe.	72nd overall (2021)	Skelleftea (Swe.)	18	0	1	1	0
Luke Prokop	22	6-6	224	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	73rd overall (2020)	Atlanta (ECHL)	55	5	23	28	16
Luke Reid	23	6-1	200	Right	Warman, Sask.	166th overall (2020)	New Hampshire (HE)	36	1	15	16	18
Luke Schenn	34	6-2	225	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Nashville	63	1	6	7	43
Brady Skjei	30	6-3	210	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	80	13	34	47	40
Spencer Stastney	24	6-0	184	Left	Woodbridge, Ill.	131st overall (2018)	Milwaukee (AHL)	44	5	15	20	2
Ryan Ufko	21	6-0	174	Right	Smithtown, N.Y.	115th overall (2021)	UMass (HE)	37	10	16	26	14
Adam Wilsby	24	6-1	188	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	101st overall (2020)	Milwaukee (AHL)	61	8	13	21	20
Vladislav Yeryomenko	25	6-0	185	Right	Vitebsk, Blr.	151st overall (2018)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	31	3	5	8	2
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Anthony Angello	28	6-5	210	Right	Albany, N.Y.	Trade: StL 3/8/23	Milwaukee (AHL)	46	3	10	13	42
Nolan Burke	21	6-3	197	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 11/14/22	Atlanta (ECHL)	47	5	10	15	32
Cody Glass	25	6-3	206	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Trade: Veg 7/17/21	Nashville	41	6	7	13	20
Vinnie Hinostroza	30	5-10	183	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	WB/Scranton (AHL)	42	16	19	35	32
Adam Ingram	20	6-4	169	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	82nd overall (2022)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	38	10	18	28	18
Mark Jankowski	30	6-4	212	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Milwaukee (AHL)	40	15	32	47	51
Jacob Lucchini	29	6-0	180	Left	Trail, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Minnesota	40	2	3	5	23
Chase McLane	24	6-2	203	Right	Trenton, Mich.	209th overall (2020)	Penn State (Big Ten)	17	3	3	6	11
Sutter Muzzatti	22	6-8	226	Left	Okemos, Mich.	143rd overall (2023)	RPI (ECAC)	33	10	15	25	79
Felix Nilsson	19	6-2	178	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	43rd overall (2023)	Rogle (Swe.)	41	1	2	3	2
Tommy Novak	27	6-1	179	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	85th overall (2015)	Nashville	71	18	27	45	8
Gustav Nyquist	35	5-11	180	Left	Halmstad, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Nashville	81	23	52	75	8
Ryan O'Reilly	33	6-1	207	Left	Clinton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Nashville	82	26	43	69	18
Erik Pahlsson	20	6-1	185	Left	Landskrona, Swe.	213th overall (2024)	Dubuque (USHL)	57	28	44	72	16
Juuso Parssinen	23	6-3	212	Left	Hameenlinna, Fin.	210th overall (2019)	Nashville	44	8	4	12	12
Colton Sissons	30	6-1	200	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	50th overall (2012)	Nashville	81	15	20	35	38
Steven Stamkos	34	6-1	193	Right	Markham, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Tampa Bay	79	40	41	81	34
Teddy Stiga	18	5-10	174	Left	Boston, Mass.	55th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	36	43	79	42
Ben Strinden	22	6-2	202	Right	Fargo, N.D.	210th overall (2022)	North Dakota (NCHC)	39	6	6	12	18
Egor Surin	18	6-1	197	Left	Voronezh, Rus.	22nd overall (2024)	Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)	43	23	30	53	108
Fedor Svechkov	21	6-0	187	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	19th overall (2021)	Milwaukee (AHL)	57	16	23	39	18
Philip Tomasino	23	6-0	179	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	24th overall (2019)	Nashville	41	7	13	20	25
Ozzy Wiesblatt	22	5-10	183	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: SJ 6/23/24	San Jose/Milwaukee (AHL)	50	4	13	17	55
Joey Willis	19	6-0	185	Left	Elmhurst, Ill.	111th overall (2023)	Saginaw (OHL)	66	14	36	50	15
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Kieffer Bellows	26	6-1	195	Left	Edina, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Toronto (AHL)	52	27	22	49	40
Alex Campbell	23	6-0	182	Left	Chateauguay, Que.	65th overall (2019)	Northeastern (HE)	36	22	20	42	6
Gunnarwolfe Fontaine	24	5-10	178	Left	Providence, R.I.	202nd overall (2020)	Northeastern (HE)	36	8	19	27	6
Filip Forsberg	30	6-1	205	Right	Ostervala, Swe.	Trade: Wsh 4/3/13	Nashville	82	48	46	94	43
Zachary L'Heureux	21	5-11	197	Left	Montreal, Que.	27th overall (2021)	Milwaukee (AHL)	66	19	29	48	197
Kalan Lind	19	6-2	150	Left	Swift Current, Sask.	46th overall (2023)	Red Deer (WHL)	46	16	29	45	73
Navrin Mutter	23	6-3	202	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/9/22	Atlanta (ECHL)	33	5	6	11	63
Viktor Norringer	18	6-3	196	Right	Lerkil, Swe.	127th overall (2024)	Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)	25	8	4	12	18
Reid Schaefer	21	6-5	226	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Trade: Edm 2/28/23	Milwaukee (AHL)	63	7	14	21	39
Cole Smith	28	6-3	195	Left	Brainerd, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/19/20	Nashville	80	9	14	23	63
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Luke Evangelista	22	6-0	183	Right	Toronto, Ont.	42nd overall (2020)	Nashville	80	16	23	39	18
Aiden Fink	19	5-11	165	Right	Calgary, Alta.	218th overall (2023)	Penn State (Big Ten)	34	15	19	34	27
Hiroki Gojsic	18	6-3	198	Right	Langley, B.C.	94th overall (2024)	Kelowna (WHL)	68	21	29	50	51
Joakim Kemell	20	5-11	182	Right	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	17th overall (2022)	Milwaukee (AHL)	67	16	25	41	23
Simon Knak	22	6-1	185	Left	Zurich, Sui.	179th overall (2021)	Davos (Sui.)	32	5	7	12	8
Jonathan Marchessault	33	5-9	185	Right	Cap-Rouge, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vegas	82	42	27	69	40
Miguel Marques	18	5-11	173	Right	Prince George, B.C.	87th overall (2024)	Lethbridge (WHL)	67	28	46	74	57
Michael McCarron	29	6-6	232	Right	Grosse Pointe, Mich.	Trade: Mtl 1/7/20	Nashville	70	12	10	22	100
Cole O'Hara	22	6-0	179	Right	Richmond Hill, Ont.	114th overall (2022)	UMass (HE)	37	7	11	18	18
Austin Roest	20	5-11	182	Right	Coldstream, B.C.	175th overall (2023)	Everett (WHL)	61	38	33	71	53
Isak Walther	23	6-6	204	Left	Sodertalje, Swe.	179th overall (2019)	Vermont (HE)	24	5	7	12	6
Matthew Wood	19	6-5	202	Right	Nanaimo, B.C.	15th overall (2023)	Connecticut (HE)	35	16	12	28	43

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
38-39-5 (.494)

OVERTIME
5-3

SHOOTOUT
0-2

OVERALL
23rd

OFFENSE
3.22 GPG (12th)

DEFENSE
3.43 GAA (26th)

POWER PLAY
22.5% (13th)

PENALTY KILL
80.7% (10th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.81 (5th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.63 (19th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Hughes (20:58)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
L. Hughes (21:28)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Sheldon Keefe

GM
Tom Fitzgerald

ARENA
Prudential Center

CAPACITY
16,514

AHL AFFILIATE
Utica Comets

ECHL AFFILIATE
Adirondack Thunder

PLAYOFF RECORD
5-7 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY SAM NESTLER

CHANGES. THAT WAS THE story for the Devils in 2023-24. After a slow start doomed them to a slot near the bottom of the standings by mid-November, it was a constant uphill climb that featured key injuries, underachieving potential and missed opportunities. As the season went on, the Devils looked more and more different. A few trades, a fired coach, and suddenly, New Jersey was within sniffing distance of the final wild-card playoff spot. But it was not to be, as they missed the post-season by 10 points.

The disappointment led to an eventful off-season. The Devils traded for a big-time goalie, which they desperately needed, hired Sheldon Keefe as coach and are looking to return to the level of the 2022-23 team that finished second in the Metro Division. With good health and a little luck, they're a playoff team – and maybe more.

OFFENSE

Statistically, the Devils were a playoff-worthy club. They finished 12th in the NHL with 3.22 goals per game and had six 20-goal scorers (including Tyler Toffoli, who was traded at the deadline). Jesper Bratt led the way with a career-high 83 points. And they needed it, as blossoming superstar Jack Hughes missed 20 games with an injury that required season-ending surgery. Hughes still finished second on the team with 74 points in 62 games. The Devils also received solid production from Timo Meier (28 goals), Nico Hischier (67 points) and another 20-goal season from Dawson Mercer. Keefe likes to play it fast – his Toronto Maple Leafs finished second with 3.63 goals per game last season. That should provide a boost.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

NICO HISCHIER

>DEFENSE

The 62-game injury absence for top defenseman Dougie Hamilton really took its toll. A combination of injuries and mediocre goaltending saw the Devils finish 26th in goals against per game (3.43). New Jersey wasn't taking any chances this summer, adding veterans Brett Pesce and Brenden Dillon. They will nicely replace Kevin Bahl and John Marino, who left via trades. A key defenseman to watch is 21-year-old Luke Hughes. The former Michigan Wolverine was impressive in his rookie season, tallying 47 points in 82 games. Like his brother Jack up front, he's a game-breaker who can take the Devils to the next level with creativity, smooth skating and excellent vision.

>GOALTENDING

Is there a team with more goalie issues over the past decade than the Devils? Each recent option played himself out of a roster spot and was traded over the past year. In comes Jacob Markstrom, who was acquired in the trade that sent Bahl to Calgary. He posted a solid .905 save percentage for a subpar Flames team last season. Markstrom was runner-up for the Vezina in 2022 and was 4th in 2020, but he's 34 now. He'll be aided by Jake Allen, who solidifies the veteran tandem.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The return of Jack Hughes and Hamilton will be monumental for the power play, which finished 13th at 22.5 percent last season. The penalty kill also took a big hit last season, dropping from fourth to 10th. Despite the skill they rolled out on the PK, including Hischier, Mercer, Hamilton and Ondrej Palat, the Devils tied for last with just three shorthanded goals. That needs to be better, as New Jersey was rarely able to swing a game when down a man. If they can improve on special teams, they'll improve their record and greatly enhance their playoff potential.

>INTANGIBLES

Stop chasing the game. The Devils were terrible at the start of games, allowing the first goal 57 times, tied for third-most in NHL history. Outside of goaltending, this is the area that needs to improve most. The Devils have the tools to be a contender.

CUP ODDS

10/1

They're one of the fastest teams, have star power, an exemplary captain in Hischier and are now led by a successful regular-season coach in Keefe.

>ROOKIES

Nolan Foote deserves some attention. The 23-year-old winger scored one goal in four games after missing most of the season due to injury. He scored 20 times in the AHL in 2022-23 and will get a real chance with the big club. Also watch out for former Michigan defenseman Seamus Casey, who's set to make his professional debut and could sneak into the NHL.

>X-FACTOR

Goaltending. If the Devils are better in net and can improve on last season's paltry .886 SP, they're a completely different team. Markstrom should be able to do that, as the veteran brings a career .909 SP and 2.73 GAA to his new club.

>THE BRASS

Keefe takes over after Lindy Ruff was fired and Travis Green stepped in as interim coach. He's well-known for his lack of playoff success, but so are the Maple Leafs as a whole. Under Keefe, Toronto was one of the NHL's best regular-season teams, going 212-97-40 over the past five years.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Ondrej Palat	1. Jack Hughes	1. Jesper Bratt
2. Tomas Tatar	2. Nico Hischier	2. Timo Meier
3. Paul Cotter	3. Erik Haula	3. Dawson Mercer
4. Nolan Foote	4. Curtis Lazar	4. Stefan Noesen
5. Kurtis MacDermid	5. Shane Bowers	5. Nathan Bastian

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Dougie Hamilton	6. Simon Nemec	1. Jacob Markstrom
2. Brett Pesce	7. Johnathan Kovacevic	2. Jake Allen
3. Luke Hughes	8. Nick DeSimone	3. Nico Daws
4. Brenden Dillon	9. Santeri Hatakka	
5. Jonas Siegenthaler	10. Seamus Casey	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs John Marino, D; Kevin Bahl, D; Alexander Holtz, RW; Brendan Smith, D; Akira Schmid, G; Michael McLeod, C; Tomas Nosek, LW

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Anton Silayev
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)
When he fills out his 6-foot-7 frame, he could become a fearsome two-way defender.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Lenni Hameenaho
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Assat (Fin.)
Often pops up in the right place at the right time. Performed well in Finnish top flight.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Seamus Casey
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Michigan (Big Ten)
Slick playmaker finds teammates and floats across the ice to join play. Strong on his skates.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Mikhail Yegorov
Pos G **Age** 18
2023-24 Omaha (USHL)
Big keeper glides in crease and can make stops at full stretch. Committed to Boston University.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

5. Kasper Pikkarainen
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 TPS Jr. (Fin.)
For now, a crash-and-bang type who does whatever is necessary to win. Banking on untapped offense.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Nico Daws
Pos G **Age** 23
2023-24 Utica (AHL)
Regular in NHL crease last season. Ideal size. Lateral movement among his best attributes.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Arseni Gritsyuk
Pos RW **Age** 23
2023-24 St. Petersburg (KHL)
Career-best per-game output in KHL last season. Hard, accurate shot and good top-end speed.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Jakub Malek
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 Ilves (Fin.)
Split crease duties last season and will push for more work this year. Big, athletic netminder.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Chase Stillman
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Utica (AHL)
Decent scoring totals in rookie AHL season. More impressive was ease of transition to pro game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Josh Filmon
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Swift Current (WHL)
Goal-scoring total dipped significantly, but rangy winger has ability to find open space.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
90 J. Hughes	
80 Bratt	
75 Hischier	
67 Meier	
60	
	Hamilton 56
50 Mercer	
	L. Hughes 43
40	
39 Haula	
37 Palat	
30 Noesen	
	Nemec 29
28 Tatar	
	Pesce 25
22 Cotter	
20 Lazar	Dillon 20
	Siegenthaler 17
16 Bastian	
	Kovacevic 7
	MacDermid 5
0	

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 4	@ Buffalo*	1:00 PM
Sat, Oct 5	vs Buffalo*	10:00 AM
Thu, Oct 10	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	vs Utah	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Tampa Bay	6:45 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 25	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Fri, Nov 1	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 4	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sun, Nov 10	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Detroit	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 2	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Chicago	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 1	@ Los Angeles	6:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Philadelphia	12:30 PM
Sun, Jan 19	vs Ottawa	1:00 PM
Wed, Jan 22	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Montreal	1:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Dallas	6:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Nashville	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 26	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 7	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 24	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 26	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 28	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Minnesota	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 31	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	vs Detroit	7:30 PM

** Global Series in Czechia*

GRIGORY SOKOLOV/KHL PHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Jake Allen	34	6-2	197	Left	Fredericton, N.B.	Trade: Mtl 3/8/24	Montreal/New Jersey	34	12-18-4	3.44	.895
Tyler Brennan	21	6-4	180	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	102nd overall (2022)	Adirondack (ECHL)	13	5-5-0	3.16	.896
Nico Daws	23	6-4	205	Left	Munich, Ger.	84th overall (2020)	New Jersey	21	9-11-0	3.15	.894
Veeti Louhivaara	18	6-3	207	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	146th overall (2024)	JYP Jr. (Fin.)	21	13-6-0	2.87	.890
Jakub Malek	22	6-4	170	Left	Kromeriz, Cze.	100th overall (2021)	Ilves (Fin.)	27	16-4-5	2.32	.915
Jacob Markstrom	34	6-6	207	Left	Gavle, Swe.	Trade: Cgy 6/19/24	Calgary	48	23-23-2	2.78	.905
Isaac Poulter	23	6-2	174	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 2/15/24	Utica (AHL)	28	17-8-1	2.55	.911
Mikhail Yegorov	18	6-5	179	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	49th overall (2024)	Omaha (USHL)	43	8-25-3	3.86	.892

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Artem Barabosha	20	6-3	189	Right	Omsk, Rus.	198th overall (2022)	Zvezda Moscow (Rus.2)	23	1	1	2	16
Seamus Casey	20	5-9	162	Right	Miami, Fla.	46th overall (2022)	Michigan (Big Ten)	40	7	38	45	14
Chase Cheslock	19	6-3	208	Right	Rogers, Minn.	154th overall (2023)	St. Thomas (CCHA)	19	1	2	3	6
Nick DeSimone	29	6-2	185	Right	East Amherst, N.Y.	Waivers: Cgy 1/25/24	Calgary/New Jersey	34	2	5	7	4
Brenden Dillon	33	6-4	225	Left	New Westminster, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Winnipeg	77	8	12	20	92
Mikael Diotte	21	6-3	205	Right	Ste-Julie, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/24	Drummondville (QMJHL)	59	12	30	42	39
Ethan Edwards	22	5-10	176	Left	Grande Prairie, Alta.	120th overall (2020)	Michigan (Big Ten)	21	3	7	10	20
Dougie Hamilton	31	6-6	230	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	New Jersey	20	5	11	16	20
Santeri Hatakka	23	6-1	191	Left	Riihimaki, Fin.	Trade: SJ 2/26/23	Utica (AHL)	48	5	15	20	32
Luke Hughes	21	6-2	198	Left	Manchester, N.H.	4th overall (2021)	New Jersey	82	9	38	47	28
Viktor Hurtig	22	6-5	191	Right	Falun, Swe.	164th overall (2021)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	9	1	1	2	6
Daniil Karpovich	19	6-3	209	Left	Minsk, Blr.	186th overall (2023)	Grodno (Blr.)	49	2	9	11	18
Johnathan Kovacevic	27	6-5	223	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Mtl 6/30/24	Montreal	62	6	7	13	42
Charles Leddy	20	6-1	184	Right	Fairfield, Conn.	126th overall (2022)	Boston College (HE)	39	0	8	8	12
Kurtis MacDermid	30	6-5	233	Left	Quebec City, Que.	Trade: Col 3/1/24	Colorado	45	2	1	3	73
Daniil Misyul	23	6-3	176	Left	Minsk, Blr.	70th overall (2019)	Utica (AHL)	44	4	10	14	47
Simon Nemec	20	6-1	190	Right	Liptovsky Mikulas, Svk.	2nd overall (2022)	New Jersey	60	3	16	19	33
Daniil Orlov	20	6-2	180	Left	Elektrostal, Rus.	110th overall (2022)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	60	2	5	7	16
Brett Pesce	29	6-3	206	Right	Tarrytown, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	70	3	10	13	20
Jonas Siegenthaler	27	6-2	218	Left	Zurich, Sui.	Trade: Wsh 4/11/21	New Jersey	57	1	8	9	20
Anton Silayev	18	6-7	211	Left	Sarov, Rus.	10th overall (2024)	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	63	3	8	11	10
Topias Vilen	21	6-1	194	Left	Lahti, Fin.	129th overall (2021)	Utica (AHL)	54	2	27	29	16
Colton White	27	6-1	187	Left	London, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Diego (AHL)	53	1	7	8	28
Yegor Zaitsev	26	6-0	180	Left	Moscow, Rus.	205th overall (2017)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	64	4	11	15	46

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Shane Bowers	25	6-2	186	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Trade: Bos 6/26/23	Utica (AHL)	43	10	4	14	8
Paul Cotter	24	6-2	213	Left	Canton, Mich.	Trade: Veg 6/29/24	Vegas	76	7	18	25	41
Justin Dowling	34	5-10	180	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Utica (AHL)	57	14	26	40	20
Max Graham	20	6-3	203	Left	Whitehorse, Yukon	139th overall (2024)	Kelowna (WHL)	67	20	22	42	135
Nico Hischier	25	6-1	175	Left	Brig, Sui.	1st overall (2017)	New Jersey	71	27	40	67	12
Jack Hughes	23	5-11	175	Left	Orlando, Fla.	1st overall (2019)	New Jersey	62	27	47	74	12
Curtis Lazar	29	6-0	203	Right	Salmon Arm, B.C.	Trade: Van 3/3/23	New Jersey	71	7	18	25	44
Matyas Melovsky	20	6-1	190	Right	Zlin, Cze.	171st overall (2024)	Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)	53	18	42	60	27
Dawson Mercer	22	6-0	180	Right	Carbonear, Nfld.	18th overall (2020)	New Jersey	82	20	13	33	29
Samu Salminen	21	6-2	186	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	68th overall (2021)	Connecticut (HE)	35	7	10	17	35
Ryan Schmelzer	31	6-2	188	Right	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 4/30/24	Utica (AHL)	72	18	34	52	38
Artem Shlaine	22	6-1	165	Left	Moscow, Rus.	130th overall (2020)	Northern Michigan (CCHA)	27	10	13	23	23
Max Willman	29	6-0	184	Left	Barnstable, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 10/7/23	Utica (AHL)	33	12	10	22	14X

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Adam Beckman	23	6-2	182	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Min 6/21/24	Iowa (AHL)	51	19	14	33	24
Jesper Bratt	26	5-10	175	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	162nd overall (2016)	New Jersey	82	27	56	83	12
Cole Brown	19	6-2	178	Left	Toronto, Ont.	164th overall (2023)	Brantford (OHL)	65	16	23	39	45
Josh Filmon	20	6-1	158	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	166th overall (2022)	Swift Current (WHL)	64	27	40	67	30
Nolan Foote	23	6-3	196	Left	Denver, Colo.	Trade: TB 2/16/20	New Jersey	4	1	0	1	0
Brian Halonen	25	6-0	207	Right	Delano, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/27/22	Utica (AHL)	35	20	9	29	19
Mike Hardman	25	6-2	205	Left	Hanover, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Rockford (AHL)	63	22	15	37	23
Erik Haula	33	5-11	191	Left	Pori, Fin.	Trade: Bos 7/13/22	New Jersey	76	16	19	35	54
Samuel Laberge	27	6-2	206	Left	Chateauguay, Que.	Free Agent: signed 11/25/23	Utica (AHL)	59	6	13	19	92
Ondrej Palat	33	6-0	194	Left	Frydek-Mistek, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	New Jersey	71	11	20	31	37
Nikita Popugaev	25	6-6	217	Right	Moscow, Rus.	98th overall (2017)	Togliatti (KHL)	23	8	4	12	2
Tomas Tatar	33	5-10	173	Left	Ilava, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Colorado/Seattle	70	9	15	24	20

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nathan Bastian	26	6-4	205	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	Waivers: Sea 11/25/21	New Jersey	54	5	7	12	32
Arseny Gritsyuk	23	5-11	174	Left	Krasnoyarsk, Rus.	129th overall (2019)	St. Petersburg (KHL)	50	19	19	38	8
Lenni Hameenaho	19	6-0	173	Right	Kajaani, Fin.	58th overall (2023)	Assat (Fin.)	46	14	17	31	10
Petr Hauser	21	6-3	200	Right	Plzen, Cze.	141st overall (2022)	Prague (Cze.)	30	0	7	7	20
Nathan Legare	23	6-0	200	Right	Montreal, Que.	Trade: Mtl 3/11/24	Laval/Utica (AHL)	54	8	4	12	61
Timo Meier	27	6-1	220	Left	Herisau, Sui.	Trade: SJ 2/26/23	New Jersey	69	28	24	52	45
Stefan Noesen	31	6-1	205	Right	Plano, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Carolina	81	14	23	37	33
Kasper Pikkarainen	18	6-3	194	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	85th overall (2024)	TPS Jr. (Fin.)	34	12	16	28	28
Cam Squires	19	6-0	165	Right	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	122nd overall (2023)	Cape Breton (QMJHL)	66	33	39	72	53
Chase Stillman	21	6-1	185	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	29th overall (2021)	Utica (AHL)	54	14	10	24	72
Herman Traff	18	6-3	203	Right	Vaxjo, Swe.	91st overall (2024)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	26	13	8	21	73
Dylan Wendt	23	6-1	195	Right	Grand Haven, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 4/4/24	Western Michigan (NCHC)	38	23	21	44	10

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

MAT BARZAL

BY ALLAN KREDA

THE ISLANDERS MADE THE playoffs with a late surge under new coach Patrick Roy before falling to Carolina in the first round for the second straight year, this time in five games. Roy replaced Lane Lambert in late January after Lambert coached the team for less than two seasons following the departure of Barry Trotz.

Roy went 20-12-5 as the Islanders rallied to a third-place finish in the Metropolitan Division. Their up-tempo style and more aggressive tactics were a welcome tonic following the deliberate and risk-averse strategy under Lambert, who was 19-15-11 when he was dismissed.

Can the Islanders compete for supremacy in a division with loaded teams such as Carolina and the rival Rangers? As always, goaltending and special teams will be key.

>OFFENSE

The offense was led by three 30-goal scorers: Brock Nelson (34), Bo Horvat (33) and Kyle Palmieri (30). Meanwhile, Mat Barzal put up a team-high 80 points, including 23 goals, and captain Anders Lee chipped in 20 goals. Anthony Duclair signed a four-year contract on July 1, reuniting the 29-year-old winger with Roy, who coached him more than a decade ago with the QMJHL Quebec Remparts. Duclair scored 24 goals last season between San Jose and Tampa Bay. Horvat, signed through 2030-31, has been a stabilizing factor on faceoffs and at both ends of the ice since his acquisition from Vancouver in January 2023.

>DEFENSE

Defense was a constant strength during the Trotz/Lambert eras, and that trend should continue under Roy, the Hall of Fame netminder. Ryan Pulock and Adam Pelech

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
39-27-16 (.573)

OVERTIME
9-11

SHOOTOUT
1-5

OVERALL
15th

OFFENSE
2.99 GPG (22nd)

DEFENSE
3.15 GAA (18th)

POWER PLAY
20.4% (19th)

PENALTY KILL
71.5% (32nd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.60 (13th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.64 (22nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Barzal (20:08)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
N. Dobson (24:31)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Patrick Roy

GM
Lou Lamoriello

ARENA
UBS Arena

CAPACITY
17,255

AHL AFFILIATE
Bridgeport Islanders

ECHL AFFILIATE
Worcester Railers

PLAYOFF RECORD
27-25 (since 2020)

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

NOAH DOBSON

provide a top-notch pairing as long as they can stay healthy. Each was limited to 58 games last season. Noah Dobson had another sterling campaign, contributing 10 goals and a team-best 60 assists. Scott Mayfield was hurt much of 2023-24, playing only 41 games, and his return will be key to solidifying the blueline. Alexander Romanov adds size and speed and was steady last season. Veteran Mike Reilly, claimed off waivers from Florida in November 2023, is back, and 23-year-old Samuel Bolduc could have an impact after playing 51 NHL games over the past two seasons.

GOALTENDING

Ilya Sorokin and Semyon Varlamov have been a solid tandem for the past four seasons, and that partnership will continue into 2024-25 and beyond. Sorokin, 29, is the starter but struggled late last year, leading to Varlamov playing more down the stretch. Sorokin was 25-19-12 with a 3.01 goals-against average, his highest GAA in four NHL seasons. Varlamov, 36, is signed through 2026-27, while Sorokin is starting an eight-year, $66-million contract. Veteran goaltending gives the Isles stability, but Sorokin needs to return to the elite form he showed in his first three seasons.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The top power-play unit is always a threat with Nelson and Horvat near the crease, Barzal creating plays and Dobson at the point. The second unit has promise with Lee, Jean-Gabriel Pageau and possibly Duclair in the mix with Pulock and his booming shot from the blueline. Fleet skaters Casey Cizikas and Pageau will be charged with turning around the 32nd-ranked penalty kill.

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

INTANGIBLES

Loud fans at UBS Arena remain an asset for the Islanders, who have reached the playoffs twice in three seasons in their new home. The Islanders' core has long been together, and their families live close to the team's practice rink (near their former home at Nassau Coliseum) on Long Island. Those off-ice bonds surely help on-ice performance. Lee has been an excellent captain, and with veterans including lifetime Isles such as Nelson and Cizikas, there's no shortage in the leadership department.

CUP ODDS

29/1

ROOKIES

Maxim Tsyplakov, an undrafted Russian winger, is an intriguing addition. The 6-foot-2, 190-pounder scored a career-high 31 goals last year for Spartak Moscow, where he played parts of the past seven seasons. Other NHL teams were interested in the 26-year-old before the Islanders signed him to a one-year deal in May.

X-FACTOR

Barzal continues to elevate his game, and the 27-year-old needs to keep that going as he enters his eighth full NHL season. Barzal scored a career-high 23 goals last season, and his 80 points were second-most to the 85 he recorded in his 2017-18 rookie year. The playmaker needs to be at his best 5-on-5 and on the power play for the Islanders to excel.

THE BRASS

GM Lou Lamoriello continues to run the Islanders in trademark tight-ship fashion. He made a bold move by replacing Lambert behind the bench with Roy in January, a decision that injected fresh enthusiasm. The 58-year-old Roy is a four-time Stanley Cup winner – twice each with Montreal and Colorado – and players were clearly enthusiastic playing for the high-energy coach.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Anders Lee	1. Bo Horvat	1. Mat Barzal
2. Pierre Engvall	2. Brock Nelson	2. Kyle Palmieri
3. Anthony Duclair	3. Jean-Gabriel Pageau	3. Simon Holmstrom
4. Kyle MacLean	4. Casey Cizikas	4. Oliver Wahlstrom
5. Hudson Fasching	5. Liam Foudy	5. Maxim Tsyplakov

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Noah Dobson	6. Mike Reilly	1. Ilya Sorokin
2. Ryan Pulock	7. Samuel Bolduc	2. Semyon Varlamov
3. Adam Pelech	8. Grant Hutton	3. Jakub Skarek
4. Alexander Romanov	9. Calle Odelius	
5. Scott Mayfield	10. Dennis Cholowski	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Cal Clutterbuck, RW; Matt Martin, LW; Sebastian Aho, D

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Cole Eiserman
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
Elite sharpshooter set new NTDP records. Defense needs time, but offense is unquestionable.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. William Dufour
Pos RW **Age** 22
2023-24 Bridgeport (AHL)
Skating is catching up to his offensive gifts. Numbers dipped noticeably in second AHL season.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Jesse Pulkkinen
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 JYP (Fin.)
Handles puck like a skilled winger and has hammer of a shot. Also has frightening physical game.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Danny Nelson
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Notre Dame (Big Ten)
Ideal size, hockey sense and is smart with the puck. Played a year as a defenseman in high school.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Maxim Tsyplakov
Pos RW **Age** 26
2023-24 Spartak Moscow (KHL)
Undrafted winger had 31-goal explosion last season. Clever playmaker and solid 6-foot-2 frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. Kamil Bednarik
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
Gets the details right more often than not. Finishing needs work, but he won't hurt his team.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Eetu Liukas
Pos LW **Age** 22
2023-24 Bridgeport (AHL)
Punishes with physical, high-energy style. Limited tools, but he's responsible both ways.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Ruslan Iskhakov
Pos C **Age** 24
2023-24 Bridgeport (AHL)
Diminutive pivot led Baby Isles in scoring. Ridiculously good hands and a wizard on penalty shots.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Matthew Maggio
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Bridgeport (AHL)
Adjustment to AHL wasn't easy, but the former OHL standout had a decent year. There's promise.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Quinn Finley
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Wisconsin (Big Ten)
Speedster can plow past his man to generate chances. Fringe player on USA's WJC gold-winning team.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	73 Horvat 71 Barzal 70 Nelson	Dobson 70
60		
40	46 Palmieri 42 Lee 39 Tsyplakov 39 Duclair 35 Pageau 32 Engvall 29 Holmstrom 25 Cizikas	Pulock 28
20	19 MacLean 18 Wahlstrom	Pelech 21 Romanov 20 Mayfield 18 Reilly 15 Bolduc 14 13 Fasching
0		

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	vs Utah	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Detroit	7:45 PM
Fri, Oct 25	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 29	vs Anaheim	7:30 PM
Wed, Oct 30	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Washington	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Buffalo	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs Seattle	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Carolina	5:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ Ottawa	5:30 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Los Angeles	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Sun, Dec 15	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ Pittsburgh	5:30 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Toronto	1:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Sun, Jan 5	@ Boston	6:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Columbus	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 24	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Vegas	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 7	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs Dallas	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Nashville	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 3	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	@ Anaheim	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 14	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Sun, Mar 16	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Calgary	4:00 PM
Mon, Mar 24	vs Columbus	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 26	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Tampa Bay	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Fri, Apr 4	vs Minnesota	7:30 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Washington	12:30 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 17	@ Columbus	7:00 PM

DAVID REGINEK-USA TODAY SPORTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Dmitry Gamzin	21	6-3	174	Left	Moscow, Rus.	115th overall (2024)	Zvezda Moskva (Rus.2)	23	10-9-2	2.42	.922
Marcus Gidlof	19	6-6	212	Left	Falun, Swe.	147th overall (2024)	Leksand Jr. (Swe.)	26	14-12-0	2.22	.923
Marcus Hogberg	29	6-5	222	Left	Orebro, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 5/7/24	Linkoping (Swe.)	40	21-18-0	2.51	.914
Tristan Lennox	21	6-3	200	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	93rd overall (2021)	Worcester (ECHL)	13	5-6-1	2.94	.909
Jakub Skarek	24	6-4	206	Left	Jihlava, Cze.	72nd overall (2018)	Bridgeport (AHL)	36	7-22-6	3.23	.888
Ilya Sorokin	29	6-3	195	Left	Mezhdurechensk, Rus.	78th overall (2014)	NY Islanders	56	25-19-12	3.01	.909
Henrik Tikkanen	24	6-8	222	Left	Lohja, Fin.	214th overall (2020)	Worcester (ECHL)	20	11-7-1	3.22	.892
Semyon Varlamov	36	6-2	205	Left	Samara, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	NY Islanders	28	14-8-4	2.60	.918

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Samuel Bolduc	23	6-4	220	Left	Laval, Que.	57th overall (2019)	NY Islanders	34	2	3	5	6
Dennis Cholowski	26	6-2	210	Left	Langley, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 8/23/22	Bridgeport (AHL)	68	7	24	31	6
Noah Dobson	24	6-4	200	Right	Summerside, P.E.I.	12th overall (2018)	NY Islanders	79	10	60	70	36
Aidan Fulp	24	6-3	212	Right	Westfield, Ind.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/23	Bridgeport (AHL)	50	1	4	5	14
Isaiah George	20	6-1	196	Left	Oakville, Ont.	98th overall (2022)	London (OHL)	68	6	24	30	54
Dennis Good Bogg	20	6-1	191	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	209th overall (2023)	AIK/Ostersund (Swe.2)	18	0	2	2	6
Grant Hutton	29	6-3	206	Right	Carmel, Ind.	Free Agent: signed 3/21/19	Bridgeport (AHL)	54	2	14	16	30
Tomas Machu	21	6-4	189	Right	Ostrava, Cze.	221st overall (2021)	Youngstown (USHL)	60	1	16	17	72
Aleksi Malinen	21	6-0	176	Left	Tuusula, Fin.	189th overall (2021)	JYP (Fin.)	42	0	7	7	2
Scott Mayfield	31	6-5	220	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	34th overall (2011)	NY Islanders	41	0	5	5	35
Travis Mitchell	24	6-4	206	Left	South Lyon, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/23	Bridgeport (AHL)	34	1	3	4	36
Calle Odelius	20	6-0	192	Left	Nykvarn, Swe.	65th overall (2022)	Djurgarden (Swe.2)	10	0	4	4	2
Adam Pelech	30	6-3	210	Left	Toronto, Ont.	65th overall (2012)	NY Islanders	58	1	15	16	27
Jesse Pulkkinen	19	6-6	203	Left	Jyvaskyla, Fin.	54th overall (2024)	JYP (Fin.)	29	2	6	8	24
Ryan Pulock	29	6-2	216	Right	Dauphin, Man.	15th overall (2013)	NY Islanders	58	5	14	19	12
Mike Reilly	31	6-1	196	Left	Chicago, Ill.	Waivers: Fla 11/25/23	Florida/NY Islanders	61	6	18	24	30
Alexander Romanov	24	6-1	215	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Mtl 7/7/22	NY Islanders	81	7	15	22	20
Zachary Schulz	19	6-1	195	Left	Ann Arbor, Mich.	177th overall (2023)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	34	2	4	6	6
Xavier Veilleux	18	6-0	189	Left	L'Ancienne-Lorette, Que.	179th overall (2024)	Muskegon (USHL)	62	3	29	32	42
Marshall Warren	23	5-11	170	Left	Laurel Hollow, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 4/16/24	Michigan (Big Ten)	41	4	14	18	30

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mat Barzal	27	6-1	190	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	16th overall (2015)	NY Islanders	80	23	57	80	34
Kamil Bednarik	18	6-0	185	Left	Elk Grove Village, Ill.	61st overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	26	39	65	58
Cameron Berg	22	6-0	192	Left	West Fargo, N.D.	125th overall (2021)	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	20	17	37	8
Casey Cizikas	33	5-11	194	Left	Toronto, Ont.	92nd overall (2009)	NY Islanders	70	10	13	23	22
Liam Foudy	24	6-2	193	Left	Scarborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/10/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	28	10	6	16	14
Marc Gatcomb	25	6-2	194	Right	Woburn, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Abbotsford (AHL)	61	9	11	20	32
Justin Gill	21	6-1	193	Left	St.-Joseph-du-Lac, Que.	145th overall (2023)	Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)	65	40	58	98	66
Bo Horvat	29	6-1	213	Left	London, Ont.	Trade: Van 1/30/23	NY Islanders	81	33	35	68	39
Ruslan Iskhakov	24	5-8	170	Left	Moscow, Rus.	43rd overall (2018)	Bridgeport (AHL)	69	18	32	50	30
Fredrik Karlstrom	26	6-3	193	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Texas (AHL)	72	21	23	44	12
Kyle MacLean	25	6-1	190	Left	Livingston, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 5/19/23	Bridgeport (AHL)	43	6	16	22	32
Danny Nelson	19	6-3	202	Left	St. Louis Park, Minn.	49th overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	30	9	14	23	32
Brock Nelson	32	6-4	210	Left	Warroad, Minn.	30th overall (2010)	NY Islanders	82	34	35	69	28
Jean-Gabriel Pageau	31	5-11	185	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Trade: Ott 2/24/20	NY Islanders	82	11	22	33	13
Kyle Palmieri	33	5-11	196	Right	Smithtown, N.Y.	Trade: NJ 4/7/21	NY Islanders	82	30	24	54	26
Camden Thiesing	23	6-0	178	Right	Franklin, Tenn.	Free Agent: signed 3/22/24	Ohio State (Big Ten)	31	9	7	16	55

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Anthony Duclair	29	5-11	197	Left	Pointe-Claire, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Jose/Tampa Bay	73	24	18	42	34
Cole Eiserman	18	6-0	195	Left	Newburyport, Mass.	20th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	57	58	31	89	34
Pierre Engvall	28	6-5	215	Left	Ljungby, Swe.	Trade: Tor 2/28/23	NY Islanders	74	10	18	28	18
Quinn Finley	20	5-11	168	Left	Valparaiso, Ind.	78th overall (2022)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	36	10	6	16	16
Alex Jefferies	22	6-0	195	Right	Framingham, Mass.	121st overall (2020)	Merrimack (HE)	22	13	10	23	19
Daylan Kuefler	22	6-2	195	Left	Red Deer, Alta.	174th overall (2022)	Bridgeport (AHL)	22	3	4	7	37
Anders Lee	34	6-3	227	Left	Edina, Minn.	152nd overall (2009)	NY Islanders	81	20	17	37	68
Eetu Liukas	22	6-3	205	Left	Turku, Fin.	157th overall (2021)	Bridgeport (AHL)	47	3	4	7	34
Jesse Nurmi	19	5-10	165	Left	Valkeala, Fin.	113th overall (2023)	KooKoo (Fin.)	19	0	2	2	2

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
William Dufour	22	6-3	212	Right	Quebec, Que.	152nd overall (2020)	Bridgeport (AHL)	55	15	10	25	35
Hudson Fasching	29	6-3	209	Right	Apple Valley, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 8/23/22	NY Islanders	45	4	10	14	6
Julien Gauthier	26	6-4	226	Right	Pointe-aux-Trembles, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/23	NY Islanders	27	5	4	9	8
Simon Holmstrom	23	6-2	215	Left	Tranas, Swe.	23rd overall (2019)	NY Islanders	75	15	10	25	14
Matthew Maggio	21	5-11	187	Right	Windsor, Ont.	142nd overall (2022)	Bridgeport (AHL)	61	16	11	27	20
Tyce Thompson	25	6-1	175	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: NJ 11/26/23	Utica/Bridgeport (AHL)	66	3	16	19	66
Maksim Tsyplakov	26	6-2	189	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 5/16/24	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	65	31	16	47	35
Oliver Wahlstrom	24	6-2	200	Right	Portland, Maine	11th overall (2018)	NY Islanders	32	2	4	6	8

NEW YORK RANGERS

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
55-23-4 (.695)

OVERTIME
8-1

SHOOTOUT
4-3

OVERALL
1st

OFFENSE
3.39 GPG (7th)

DEFENSE
2.76 GAA (7th)

POWER PLAY
26.4% (3rd)

PENALTY KILL
84.5% (3rd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.52 (20th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.62 (18th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
V. Trocheck (21:27)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
A. Fox (23:27)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Peter Laviolette

GM
Chris Drury

ARENA
Madison Square Garden

CAPACITY
18,006

AHL AFFILIATE
Hartford Wolf Pack

ECHL AFFILIATE
Bloomington Bison

PLAYOFF RECORD
23-23 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY STEVE ZIPAY

THINGS WERE LOOKING BRIGHT on Broadway. After winning the Presidents' Trophy and ousting Washington and Carolina in the playoffs, the Rangers' management, players and fans believed there was enough gas in the tank to have a shot at a long-sought Stanley Cup. Instead, Florida rebounded from a 2-1 deficit in the Eastern Conference final and outplayed the Blueshirts to take the series in six games and advance to the Cup final.

For GM Chris Drury, that provoked a shuffling of the deck, which proved doubly challenging because his planning included a tight salary cap not just for 2024-25 but also for 2025-26, when three key players – goalie Igor Shesterkin, right winger Alexis Lafreniere and defenseman K'Andre Miller – will be due for extensions.

Added to the issue was friction between Drury and captain Jacob Trouba, who carries an $8-million cap hit for the next two seasons. A stalemate began in late June after he was asked to submit a no-trade list of 15 teams.

OFFENSE

The core scorers, led by Artemi Panarin (49 goals, 120 points), Mika Zibanejad, Chris Kreider and Vincent Trocheck delivered – especially on the power play – and 2020 No. 1 overall pick Lafreniere blossomed. But the first line was missing an effective right winger all season, the 5-on-5 numbers were disappointing, and the stars' ability to produce mostly disappeared in the playoffs. Barclay Goodrow, who scored six post-season goals, rejected a trade with three years left on his contract and was waived. Right winger Jack Roslovic and center Alex Wennberg, acquired at the trade deadline, left as UFAs. Kaapo Kakko, who has

yet to produce the offense the Rangers envisioned when they chose him second overall 2019, signed a one-year extension. Meanwhile right winger Reilly Smith, 33, was brought in via trade and center Sam Carrick was signed as a UFA.

DEFENSE

The Trouba issue – should he stay or should he go? – leaves the Rangers' blueline at loose ends. Although the 30-year-old's play has diminished, and he's probably destined for a third-pair slot, he is a body-wrecker, dishing out resounding checks. Adam Fox remains the team's most effective offensive threat on 'D' and will again be paired with Ryan Lindgren. Miller had an inconsistent season, but he has been a solid match with Braden Schneider. Zac Jones, 23, is a puck-mover who chipped in two goals and nine points in 31 games and should see more action this season.

GOALTENDING

Shesterkin remains the clear No. 1, and a one-year extension for Jonathan Quick, who was terrific as a backup in his first season in New York, completes the tandem. Shesterkin, 28, one of the top-tier netminders in the NHL, was reportedly seeking about $13 million a season – or nearly 15 percent of the team's payroll – on a long-term pact. New York has little choice but to open the vault.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Special teams drove the Rangers to the Presidents' Trophy. The power play – led by Kreider's 18 goals, Zibanejad's 12 and 11 from each of Panarin and Trocheck – finished third (26.4 percent) in the regular season. The penalty kill also ranked third (84.5 percent) and had eight shorthanded goals, tied for 10th in the NHL. All the key figures will return, including Fox, who had 27 PP assists and led the team in average ice time at 23:27. Jimmy Vesey, a valuable forward on the PK, remains, but the unit will miss Goodrow.

INTANGIBLES

How will the team chemistry adjust to whatever happens with Trouba, who could agree to a trade, be waived or stick around and battle it out? Can Lafreniere continue his growth (28 goals, 57 points) and become a star? Will Smith be an effective top-six right winger? Can Filip Chytil stay healthy and return to form – and if not, who's the third-line center?

ROOKIES

Brennan Othmann, the No. 16 pick in 2021, will get a good look. Enforcer Matt Rempe (6-foot-7) needs some maturing, and Adam Edstrom (6-foot-7) also has size. Candidates for a depth slot on 'D' are Connor Mackey, Brandon Scanlin and Matthew Robertson.

X-FACTOR

If Lafreniere can score 35-plus goals and 70-plus points, that would be a game-changer. Two other elements could shift the dynamic: the fates of Trouba and Kakko, whose departures would free up cap space and perhaps add personnel.

CUP ODDS

14/1

THE BRASS

Former president and GM Glen Sather had been with the Rangers for 24 years. He retired in June at 80 after spending the past four years as special adviser to MSG owner James Dolan. Coach Peter Laviolette and his staff start a second season, but goaltending guru Benoit Allaire is cutting back his day-to-day duties. As director of goaltending, he's assisting the search for a goalie coach.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Artemi Panarin	1. Mika Zibanejad	1. Alexis Lafreniere
2. Chris Kreider	2. Vincent Trocheck	2. Reilly Smith
3. Will Cuylle	3. Filip Chytil	3. Kaapo Kakko
4. Jimmy Vesey	4. Sam Carrick	4. Matt Rempe
5. Brennan Othmann	5. Jonny Brodzinski	5. Adam Edstrom

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Adam Fox	6. Zac Jones	1. Igor Shesterkin
2. K'Andre Miller	7. Chad Ruhwedel	2. Jonathan Quick
3. Jacob Trouba	8. Casey Fitzgerald	3. Louis Domingue
4. Braden Schneider	9. Brandon Scanlin	
5. Ryan Lindgren	10. Connor Mackey	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Barclay Goodrow, RW; Alexander Wennberg, C; Erik Gustafsson, D; Blake Wheeler, RW; Jack Roslovic, C; Nick Bonino, C

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Gabe Perreault
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
Oodles of hockey sense and a knack for getting pucks to sticks. He's a brilliant playmaker.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Brennan Othmann
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Hartford (AHL)
A 21-goal season as an AHL rookie bodes well for sharpshooting winger. Solid forechecker.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. EJ Emery
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
Physical tools – size, speed, athleticism – are there. Becoming defensively solid is the next step.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

4. Adam Sykora
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Hartford (AHL)
Never quits on plays. Drives hard to net. Hounds defenders. Makes interceptions to generate chances.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Drew Fortescue
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
Gritty defender makes life hard for opposition. Uses stick well, but not an offensive threat.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

6. Bryce McConnell-Barker
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Two-way pivot goes into corners to dig out pucks and make plays. Fires it like a big-leaguer.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Brett Berard
Pos LW **Age** 22
2023-24 Hartford (AHL)
Don't let 5-foot-9 frame fool you; he's a wrecking ball. Fights his way to high-danger areas.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Dylan Garand
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 Hartford (AHL)
Mediocre AHL season followed by good playoff numbers. Plenty of time for him to work on his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Raoul Boilard
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)
QMJHL's rookie-scoring leader has top-end skill, but consistency is big concern. Maturity will help.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Noah Laba
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Colorado College (NCHC)
Nearly doubled freshman output as sophomore. That's a trajectory Rangers want to see continue.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	107 Panarin
80	80 Zibanejad
	74 Trocheck
	65 Kreider
60	61 Lafreniere
	45 Chytil
40	39 Smith
	30 Kakko 30 Cuylle
	24 Vesey
20	17 Brodzinski
	12 Carrick 10 Rempe
0	

Fox 82
Miller 34
Trouba 31
Schneider 20
Jones 18
Lindgren 15

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	@ Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Montreal	7:15 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	@ Seattle	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Montreal	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 2	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	vs Seattle	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 9	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 11	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Los Angeles	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	@St Louis	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	vs Carolina	12:30 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@New Jersey	1:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 30	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Washington	12:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 19	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	vs Colorado	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Boston	3:30 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs Vegas	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 5	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 7	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Buffalo	5:30 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 28	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 5	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Ottawa	12:30 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Vancouver	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 28	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@San Jose	10:30 PM
Wed, Apr 2	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@New Jersey	1:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 9	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Carolina	3:30 PM
Mon, Apr 14	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM

NICK WOSIKA-USA TODAY SPORTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

NEW YORK RANGERS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Talyn Boyko	21	6-7	212	Left	Drumheller, Alta.	112th overall (2021)	Cincinnati (ECHL)	26	13-9-1	3.42	.888
Louis Domingue	32	6-3	209	Right	St-Hyacinthe, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Hartford (AHL)	28	16-8-4	2.66	.909
Dylan Garand	22	6-3	177	Left	Victoria, B.C.	103rd overall (2020)	Hartford (AHL)	39	16-17-5	3.03	.898
Hugo Ollas	22	6-7	220	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	197th overall (2020)	Merrimack (HE)	21	7-12-0	2.84	.908
Jonathan Quick	38	6-1	215	Left	Milford, Conn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	NY Rangers	27	18-6-2	2.62	.911
Igor Shesterkin	28	6-1	197	Left	Moscow, Rus.	118th overall (2014)	NY Rangers	55	36-17-2	2.58	.913

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
EJ Emery	18	6-3	185	Right	Surrey, B.C.	30th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	0	16	16	61
Casey Fitzgerald	27	5-11	183	Right	North Reading, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Charlotte (AHL)	69	4	17	21	65
Drew Fortescue	19	6-1	176	Left	New York, N.Y.	90th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	40	4	4	8	36
Adam Fox	26	5-11	185	Right	Jericho, N.Y.	Trade: Car 4/30/19	NY Rangers	72	17	56	73	36
Ben Harpur	29	6-6	230	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/27/22	Hartford (AHL)	7	1	2	3	2
Zac Jones	23	5-10	176	Left	Richmond, Va.	68th overall (2019)	NY Rangers	31	2	7	9	8
Hank Kempf	22	6-2	190	Left	Wilmette, Ill.	208th overall (2021)	Cornell (ECAC)	35	1	7	8	12
Rasmus Larsson	20	6-3	200	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	152nd overall (2023)	Green Bay (USHL)	59	4	13	17	8
Ryan Lindgren	26	6-0	193	Left	Burnsville, Minn.	Trade: Bos 2/25/18	NY Rangers	76	3	14	17	36
Connor Mackey	28	6-3	204	Left	Tower Lake, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Hartford (AHL)	44	2	9	11	82
Victor Mancini	22	6-3	215	Right	Hancock, Mich.	159th overall (2022)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	40	4	6	10	8
K'Andre Miller	24	6-5	210	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	22nd overall (2018)	NY Rangers	80	8	22	30	49
Matthew Robertson	23	6-4	209	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	49th overall (2019)	Hartford (AHL)	68	4	17	21	49
Chad Ruhwedel	34	5-11	191	Right	San Diego, Calif.	Trade: Pit 3/8/24	Pittsburgh/NY Rangers	52	1	3	4	4
Brandon Scanlin	25	6-4	218	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/19/22	Hartford (AHL)	64	8	8	16	39
Braden Schneider	23	6-3	211	Right	Prince Albert, Sask.	19th overall (2020)	NY Rangers	82	5	14	19	16
Jacob Trouba	30	6-3	209	Right	Rochester, Mich.	Trade: Wpg 6/17/19	NY Rangers	69	3	19	22	73

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Raoul Boilard	18	6-1	188	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	119th overall (2024)	Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)	68	22	40	62	48
Jonny Brodzinski	31	6-0	204	Right	Ham Lake, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 10/9/20	NY Rangers	57	6	13	19	8
Sam Carrick	32	6-0	200	Right	Markham, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Anaheim/Edmonton	77	10	6	16	102
Filip Chytil	25	6-2	208	Left	Kromeriz, Cze.	21st overall (2017)	NY Rangers	10	0	6	6	4
Adam Edstrom	23	6-7	234	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	161st overall (2019)	Hartford (AHL)	40	11	5	16	16
Bo Groulx	24	6-2	198	Left	Rouen, Fra.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Anaheim	45	0	2	2	22
Karl Henriksson	23	5-10	178	Left	Malmo, Swe.	58th overall (2019)	Hartford (AHL)	64	11	12	23	12
Zakary Karpa	22	6-2	185	Left	Greenwich, Conn.	191st overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	31	4	4	8	6
Ryder Korczak	22	5-10	171	Right	Yorkton, Sask.	75th overall (2021)	Hartford (AHL)	67	9	11	20	28
Noah Laba	21	6-2	191	Right	Northville, Mich.	111th overall (2022)	Colorado College (NCHC)	36	20	17	37	27
Jake Leschyshyn	25	5-11	198	Left	Raleigh, N.C.	Waivers: Veg 1/11/23	Hartford (AHL)	47	8	11	19	36
Bryce McConnell-Barker	20	6-1	186	Left	London, Ont.	97th overall (2022)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	52	22	29	51	22
Riley Nash	35	6-1	187	Right	Consort, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Hartford (AHL)	41	11	16	27	38
Matt Rempe	22	6-7	241	Right	Calgary, Alta.	165th overall (2020)	Hartford (AHL)	43	8	4	12	96
Dylan Roobroeck	20	6-7	204	Left	London, Ont.	178th overall (2023)	Oshawa (OHL)	68	26	46	72	101
Vincent Trocheck	31	5-11	187	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	NY Rangers	82	25	52	77	55
Mika Zibanejad	31	6-2	201	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Trade: Ott 7/18/16	NY Rangers	81	26	46	72	30

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nathan Aspinall	18	6-6	185	Left	Markham, Ont.	159th overall (2024)	Flint (OHL)	65	18	16	34	23
Brett Berard	22	5-9	174	Left	Providence, R.I.	134th overall (2020)	Hartford (AHL)	71	25	23	48	62
Anton Blidh	29	6-1	196	Left	Molnlycke, Swe.	Trade: Col 3/3/23	Hartford (AHL)	64	7	10	17	77
Will Cuylle	22	6-3	210	Left	Toronto, Ont.	60th overall (2020)	NY Rangers	81	13	8	21	56
Rico Gredig	19	6-1	180	Left	Chur, Sui.	191st overall (2024)	Davos (Sui.)	28	2	2	4	6
Ty Henricks	19	6-5	205	Left	Mission Viejo, Calif.	183rd overall (2023)	Muskegon (USHL)	60	17	15	32	22
Chris Kreider	33	6-3	233	Left	Boxford, Mass.	19th overall (2009)	NY Rangers	82	39	36	75	26
Alexis Lafreniere	22	6-1	194	Left	St-Eustache, Que.	1st overall (2020)	NY Rangers	82	28	29	57	40
Brennan Othmann	21	6-0	186	Left	Scarborough, Ont.	16th overall (2021)	Hartford (AHL)	67	21	28	49	65
Artemi Panarin	32	6-0	175	Right	Korkino, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	NY Rangers	82	49	71	120	24
Adam Sykora	20	5-11	192	Left	Piestany, Svk.	63rd overall (2022)	Hartford (AHL)	66	8	15	23	4
Kalle Vaisanen	21	6-4	178	Right	Kotka, Fin.	106th overall (2021)	TPS (Fin.)	58	9	5	14	16
Jimmy Vesey	31	6-2	200	Left	Boston, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 10/9/22	NY Rangers	80	13	13	26	20

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alex Belzile	33	6-0	195	Right	Riviere-du-Loup, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Hartford (AHL)	61	19	31	50	70
Jaroslav Chmelar	21	6-4	198	Right	Nove Mesto nad Metuji, Cze.	144th overall (2021)	Providence (HE)	26	5	10	15	29
Kaapo Kakko	23	6-2	205	Left	Turku, Fin.	2nd overall (2019)	NY Rangers	61	13	6	19	24
Brody Lamb	21	6-1	165	Right	Rochester, Minn.	104th overall (2021)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	12	15	27	6
Lauri Pajuniemi	25	6-0	202	Right	Tampere, Fin.	132nd overall (2018)	Malmo (Swe.)	43	15	20	35	26
Gabe Perreault	19	5-11	165	Left	Sherbrooke, Que.	23rd overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	36	19	41	60	29
Reilly Smith	33	6-1	185	Left	Mimico, Ont.	Trade: Pit 7/1/24	Pittsburgh	76	13	27	40	18

OTTAWA SENATORS

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
37-41-4 (.476)

OVERTIME
7-4

SHOOTOUT
5-0

OVERALL
26th

OFFENSE
3.05 GPG (20th)

DEFENSE
3.43 GAA (28th)

POWER PLAY
18.0% (23rd)

PENALTY KILL
75.1% (29th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.55 (18th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.64 (23rd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Stutzle (21:07)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Sanderson (23:13)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Travis Green

GM
Steve Staios

ARENA
Canadian Tire Centre

CAPACITY
19,347

AHL AFFILIATE
Belleville Senators

ECHL AFFILIATE
Allen Americans

PLAYOFF RECORD
0-0 (since 2020)

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY DILLON COLLINS

PATIENCE HAS RUN OUT in Canada's capital, and the time for excuses and platitudes has long passed. Gone are GM Pierre Dorion and coach D.J. Smith, replaced by Steve Staios and Travis Green.

New owner Michael Andlauer has his people in place. And after missing the playoffs for a seventh straight season, expectations are high for the Senators to wash off the stink of failure and make a run into the playoffs. Dorion-era acquisitions Joonas Korpisalo, Jakob Chychrun and Vladimir Tarasenko are out, replaced by 2023 Vezina Trophy winner Linus Ullmark, Stanley Cup winners David Perron (St. Louis in 2019) and Michael Amadio (Vegas in 2023) and right-handed defender Nick Jensen. Staios has addressed the club's three most pressing needs: upgrading the goaltending, acquiring a steady right-shot D-man and stocking the cupboards with bottom-six depth. The pieces are in place, but can the Senators supplant one of the Atlantic's big boys to grab a playoff spot?

>OFFENSE

The forward corps remains largely intact for the '24-25 Senators. Captain Brady Tkachuk led the team with 37 goals and 74 points, supported by rising star Tim Stutzle, sniping winger Drake Batherson and beloved veteran Claude Giroux. Josh Norris, Shane Pinto and the still blossoming Ridly Greig round out Ottawa's more potent offensive weapons. The team addressed its lack of depth by signing UFA veterans Perron and Amadio and the well-rounded Noah Gregor. When healthy and motivated, the Senators have the makings of one of the more dangerous offensive units in the NHL.

TIM STUTZLE

DEFENSE

There has long been a logjam on the left side of the blueline and a glaring need for a right-shot defenseman. Staios did well to address that concern in the off-season, flipping Chychrun to Washington for the veteran Jensen. While Jensen, 34, lacks Chychrun's offensive upside, he's versatile, composed and sure-footed in the 'D' zone, which are exactly the traits the back end has lacked. Expect Jake Sanderson to take another stride toward star status, with Thomas Chabot chewing up heavy minutes alongside the durable Artem Zub. Tyler Kleven, Jacob Bernard-Docker and Travis Hamonic will battle for third-pairing roles.

GOALTENDING

Have the Sens answered their long-looming goaltending question? The tandem of Korpisalo and Anton Forsberg was among the worst-ranked in the NHL last season in both save percentage and goals-against average. In response, Staios landed perhaps the biggest fish in the goalie trade market with the acquisition of Ullmark, flipping Korpisalo, gritty center Mark Kastelic and a first-rounder to division rival Boston. Ullmark, 31, provides much-needed stability as the clear-cut starter, with Forsberg serving as a respectable backup and AHL Belleville ace Mads Sogaard waiting in the wings. They don't need a savior, just a save.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Ottawa finished 23rd in the NHL on the power play (18.0 percent). While the club will miss Chychrun and his 16 power-play points, they'll gain some traction with the addition of Perron, who had seven PP goals and 17 PP points last season with Detroit. The PK ranked a lowly 29th (75.1 percent), though at least the Senators managed to score seven shorthanded goals. The new cadre of assistant coaches – Nolan Baumgartner, Ben Sexton, Mike Yeo and Sens legend Daniel Alfredsson – along with Jacques Martin, the senior advisor to the coaching staff, will be relied upon to turn around both units.

INTANGIBLES

The team went a long way in adding significant character to their dressing room during the off-season. Giroux will no longer have to shoulder the burden of veteran status on his own thanks to the arrivals of Perron, Amadio and Jensen. All are steady, versatile hands who will help guide a young team.

CUP ODDS

60/1

ROOKIES

Kleven, an imposing defender, suited up for 17 games with Ottawa in his first two seasons as a pro. He was a steady presence with offensive upside in Belleville last season, putting up 21 points in 53 AHL games. Up front, Angus Crookshank, 24, and Zack Ostapchuk, 21, will contend for roster spots.

X-FACTOR

In the past two seasons, the Sens have lost footing in the playoff race almost as soon as it had begun. Ottawa started 5-8-1 in '22-23 and 6-7-0 in '23-24, with seven of those 15 losses coming to division rivals. A hot start is key for Green's squad if they're going to earn their first playoff berth since 2017.

THE BRASS

Make no mistake, it is Staios' team now. He is Andlauer's man through and through, and he has an opportunity to bring positive change to a franchise that has too long dwelled in the NHL's basement. Another failure may result in a shake-up of established core players.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Brady Tkachuk	1. Tim Stutzle	1. Claude Giroux
2. Ridly Greig	2. Josh Norris	2. Drake Batherson
3. David Perron	3. Shane Pinto	3. Michael Amadio
4. Noah Gregor	4. Zack Ostapchuk	4. Zack MacEwen
5. Angus Crookshank	5. Adam Gaudette	5. Jan Jenik

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Thomas Chabot	6. Jacob Bernard-Docker	1. Linus Ullmark
2. Jake Sanderson	7. Travis Hamonic	2. Anton Forsberg
3. Artem Zub	8. Max Guenette	3. Mads Sogaard
4. Nick Jensen	9. Filip Roos	
5. Tyler Kleven	10. Jeremy Davies	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jakob Chychrun, D; Joonas Korpisalo, G; Dominik Kubalik, LW; Mathieu Joseph, RW; Erik Brannstrom, D; Parker Kelly, LW; Mark Kastelic, C

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Carter Yakemchuk
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Calgary (WHL)
Blueline sniper potted 30 goals and throws his weight around. Skating improvements will help.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

2. Tyler Kleven
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Belleville (AHL)
En route to competing for regular NHL minutes. Moves the puck efficiently and uses size well.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

3. Mads Sogaard
Pos G **Age** 23
2023-24 Belleville (AHL)
Few holes in big keeper who's quick in the crease. Small details need work. Trending positively.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

4. Xavier Bourgault
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Bakersfield (AHL)
Developed all-around game and trusted in all situations. Totals stagnated in second pro season.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Zack Ostapchuk
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Belleville (AHL)
Welcomes contact and will battle to win loose pucks. Versatile skill set for big forward.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. Gabriel Eliasson
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 HV71 Jr. (Swe.)
Big, mean defender will drop his shoulder and drive through opponents. Needs overall refinement.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Leevi Merilainen
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 Belleville (AHL)
Split time between minor-league circuits. Good lateral movement and stays big in butterfly.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Tyler Boucher
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Belleville (AHL)
No shifts off for gritty winger. Offense hasn't caught up to compete level, but he's getting there.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Jorian Donovan
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Saginaw (OHL)
Skill set and skating ability allow for good first pass, jumping into attack and hurrying back on 'D.'
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Stephen Halliday
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Ohio State (Big Ten)
Better than point per game in first AHL playoff. Uses size well to get to high-danger areas.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

85 Stutzle

80 — 80 Tkachuk

70 Batherson

60

58 Norris

55 Giroux

49 Perron — Sanderson 49

Chabot 44

42 Pinto

40

37 Greig

27 Amadio

20

Jensen 20

Zub 18

Hamonic 15

13 Ostapchuk
13 Gregor

Kleven 12
Bernard-Docker 10

8 MacEwen

0

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	vs Los Angeles	1:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Utah	9:15 PM
Fri, Oct 25	@ Vegas	6:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 1	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	vs NY Islanders	5:30 PM
Wed, Dec 11	vs Anaheim	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 13	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	vs Dallas	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Boston	3:00 PM
Sun, Jan 19	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	vs Utah	5:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 3	@ Nashville	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 26	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	@ Washington	6:30 PM
Wed, Mar 5	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs NY Rangers	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 10	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Pittsburgh	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Florida	2:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Columbus	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	vs Carolina	7:00 PM

JENN PIERCE/CALGARY HITMEN

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

OTTAWA SENATORS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Anton Forsberg	31	6-3	195	Left	Harnosand, Swe.	Waivers: Wpg 3/17/21	Ottawa	30	15-12-0	3.21	.890
Leevi Merilainen	22	6-2	158	Left	Oulu, Fin.	71st overall (2020)	Belleville (AHL)	24	10-9-1	2.87	.906
Vladimir Nikitin	19	6-4	192	Left	Ekibastuz, Kaz.	207th overall (2023)	Chilliwack (BCHL)	25	15-6-3	2.76	.898
Kevin Reidler	20	6-5	176	Left	Gavle, Swe.	151st overall (2022)	Dubuque (USHL)	39	27-5-2	2.86	.902
Mads Sogaard	23	6-7	196	Left	Aalborg, Den.	37th overall (2019)	Belleville (AHL)	32	18-9-3	2.45	.916
Linus Ullmark	31	6-4	213	Left	Lugnvik, Swe.	Trade: Bos 6/24/24	Boston	40	22-10-7	2.57	.915

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Matthew Andonovski	19	6-2	200	Left	Markham, Ont.	140th overall (2023)	Kitchener (OHL)	65	7	25	32	124
Jacob Bernard-Docker	24	6-0	190	Right	Canmore, Alta.	26th overall (2018)	Ottawa	72	4	10	14	25
Thomas Chabot	27	6-2	203	Left	St-Marie, Que.	18th overall (2015)	Ottawa	51	9	21	30	22
Jeremy Davies	27	5-11	180	Left	St-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Rochester (AHL)	66	12	23	35	79
Jorian Donovan	20	6-1	182	Left	Calgary, Alta.	136th overall (2022)	Brantford/Saginaw (OHL)	66	13	33	46	73
Gabriel Eliasson	18	6-6	192	Left	Kungsbacka, Swe.	39th overall (2024)	HV71 Jr. (Swe.)	36	1	5	6	103
Maxence Guenette	23	6-1	181	Right	L'Ancienne-Lorette, Que.	187th overall (2019)	Belleville (AHL)	58	7	27	34	18
Tomas Hamara	20	6-0	185	Left	Prague, Cze.	87th overall (2022)	Kitchener/Brantford (OHL)	44	1	19	20	22
Travis Hamonic	34	6-1	200	Right	St. Malo, Man.	Trade: Van 3/20/22	Ottawa	48	2	4	6	40
Nick Jensen	34	6-1	205	Right	Rogers, Minn.	Trade: Wsh 7/1/24	Washington	78	1	13	14	10
Tyler Kleven	22	6-4	200	Left	Fargo, N.D.	44th overall (2020)	Belleville (AHL)	53	5	16	21	51
Nikolas Matinpalo	25	6-3	207	Right	Espoo, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/25/23	Belleville (AHL)	67	4	10	14	26
Filip Nordberg	20	6-4	207	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	64th overall (2022)	Muskegon (USHL)	52	1	13	14	80
Filip Roos	25	6-4	190	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Rockford (AHL)	59	2	14	16	20
Jake Sanderson	22	6-2	203	Left	Whitefish, Mont.	5th overall (2020)	Ottawa	79	10	28	38	23
Donovan Sebrango	22	6-1	194	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	Trade: Det 7/9/23	Belleville (AHL)	35	0	7	7	65
Hoyt Stanley	19	6-2	187	Right	West Vancouver, B.C.	108th overall (2023)	Cornell (ECAC)	35	2	8	10	22
Lassi Thomson	24	6-0	190	Right	Tampere, Fin.	Waivers: Ana 10/9/23	Belleville (AHL)	67	6	15	21	56
Djibril Toure	21	6-7	215	Right	Montreal, Que.	Free Agent: signed 9/21/23	Sudbury/Windsor (OHL)	45	8	10	18	69
Theo Wallberg	20	6-3	187	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	168th overall (2022)	Ohio State (Big Ten)	38	2	19	21	16
Eerik Wallenius	18	6-4	212	Left	Salo, Fin.	136th overall (2024)	HPK U18 (Fin.)	37	3	11	14	30
Carter Yakemchuk	19	6-3	201	Right	Fort McMurray, Alta.	7th overall (2024)	Calgary (WHL)	66	30	41	71	120
Artem Zub	28	6-3	204	Right	Khabarovsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 5/1/20	Ottawa	69	5	20	25	32

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Owen Beckner	19	6-2	175	Left	Victoria, B.C.	204th overall (2023)	Tri-City (USHL)	61	14	31	45	18
Wyatt Bongiovanni	25	6-0	194	Left	Birmingham, Mich.	Trade: Wpg 3/15/24	Manitoba/Belleville (AHL)	48	16	9	25	30
Xavier Bourgault	21	6-0	172	Right	L'Islet, Que.	Trade: Edm 7/15/24	Bakersfield (AHL)	55	8	12	20	24
Jake Chiasson	21	6-2	165	Right	Abbotsford, B.C.	Trade: Edm 7/15/24	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	68	9	11	20	30
Philippe Daoust	22	6-0	151	Left	Barrie, Ont.	158th overall (2020)	Allen (ECHL)	5	3	2	5	4
Tyson Dyck	20	6-0	170	Left	Abbotsford, B.C.	206th overall (2022)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	28	0	9	9	21
Adam Gaudette	27	6-1	194	Right	Braintree, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Springfield (AHL)	67	44	27	71	51
Noah Gregor	26	6-0	192	Left	Beaumont, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto	63	6	6	12	17
Ridly Greig	22	6-0	184	Left	Lethbridge, Alta.	28th overall (2020)	Ottawa	72	13	13	26	66
Stephen Halliday	22	6-3	213	Left	Ajax, Ont.	104th overall (2022)	Ohio State (Big Ten)	38	10	26	36	30
Matthew Highmore	28	5-11	188	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Belleville (AHL)	43	9	22	31	10
Zack MacEwen	28	6-4	240	Right	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/6/23	Ottawa	30	2	1	3	57
Josh Norris	25	6-2	195	Left	Oxford, Mich.	Trade: SJ 9/13/18	Ottawa	50	16	14	30	22
Zack Ostapchuk	21	6-3	205	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	39th overall (2021)	Belleville (AHL)	69	17	11	28	47
Garrett Pilon	26	6-0	191	Right	Mineola, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Belleville (AHL)	62	18	29	47	12
Shane Pinto	23	6-3	201	Right	Franklin Square, N.Y.	32nd overall (2019)	Ottawa	41	9	18	27	14
Jamieson Rees	23	5-11	172	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Car 3/15/24	Springfield/Charlotte/Belleville (AHL)	51	0	8	8	22

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Vitaly Abramov	26	5-10	180	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Trade: Clb 2/22/19	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	59	13	19	32	22
Angus Crookshank	24	5-10	181	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	126th overall (2018)	Belleville (AHL)	50	24	22	46	60
Lucas Ellinas	18	6-2	198	Left	Etobicoke, Ont.	104th overall (2024)	Kitchener (OHL)	67	16	17	33	75
Oliver Johansson	21	6-0	183	Left	Sundsvall, Swe.	74th overall (2021)	Timra (Swe.)	51	5	3	8	4
Blake Montgomery	19	6-3	180	Left	Bowie, Md.	117th overall (2024)	Lincoln (USHL)	58	22	21	43	43
Javon Moore	18	6-3	190	Left	St. Louis Park, Minn.	112th overall (2024)	Minnetonka (USHS)	28	26	27	53	2
David Perron	36	6-0	195	Right	Sherbrooke, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Detroit	76	17	30	47	55
Cole Reinhardt	24	6-0	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	181st overall (2020)	Belleville (AHL)	56	8	15	23	76
Tim Stutzle	22	6-0	197	Left	Viersen, Ger.	3rd overall (2020)	Ottawa	75	18	52	70	28
Brady Tkachuk	25	6-4	225	Left	Scottsdale, Ariz.	4th overall (2018)	Ottawa	81	37	37	74	134

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Michael Amadio	28	6-1	200	Right	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vegas	73	14	13	27	16
Drake Batherson	26	6-3	203	Right	Fort Wayne, Ind.	121st overall (2017)	Ottawa	82	28	38	66	42
Tyler Boucher	21	6-1	205	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	10th overall (2021)	Belleville (AHL)	21	2	3	5	34
Claude Giroux	36	5-11	188	Right	Hearst, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Ottawa	82	21	43	64	26
Hayden Hodgson	28	6-2	208	Right	Windsor, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Ontario (AHL)	49	6	10	16	116
Jan Jenik	24	6-1	185	Left	Nymburk, Cze.	Trade: Uth 7/3/24	Tucson (AHL)	55	16	20	36	48
Cameron O'Neill	20	6-0	182	Right	Odenton, Md.	143rd overall (2022)	UMass (HE)	28	3	4	7	23
Oskar Pettersson	20	6-2	198	Right	Halmstad, Swe.	72nd overall (2022)	Belleville (AHL)	29	3	4	7	4
Nicholas Vantassell	20	6-4	196	Right	Staten Island, N.Y.	215th overall (2023)	UMass (HE)	24	1	1	2	19

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

TRAVIS KONECNY

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BY WAYNE FISH

DESPITE BEING PROJECTED FOR a low finish by many NHL pundits, the Flyers maintained a playoff spot for 124 days. Then an eight-game losing skid in late March and early April knocked them out of contention.

The unexpectedly early signing of 2023 first-rounder Matvei Michkov – who managed to get released from a KHL contract that had two years remaining – to an NHL deal has raised hopes in Philadelphia of ending a four-year playoff drought. The decision not to re-sign goalie Carter Hart – whose playing status remains unknown after he was charged with sexual assault for an alleged 2018 incident – leaves the door open for Samuel Ersson and Ivan Fedotov. GM Daniel Briere's commitment to the rebuilding plan has given the fan base cause for optimism.

OFFENSE

Travis Konecny led the Flyers' offense with career-best totals in goals (33) and points (68). On defense, Travis Sanheim established career highs in goals (10), assists (34) and points (44). For a second straight season, Philadelphia's goal total increased. This was noteworthy because the Flyers finished 32nd on the power play, clicking at barely 12 percent. The arrival of Michkov and a second season for 20-goal rookie Tyson Foerster should help put more pucks in the net. Another reason for optimism: the Flyers had a dozen players hit double-digit goals, and 11 of them are back this season. The offense is trending up.

DEFENSE

There's plenty of mobility on the blueline but also a lack of size. Regulars Jamie Drysdale, Cam York and Egor Zamula are all 200 pounds or under. York and

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
38-33-11 (.530)

OVERTIME
4-8

SHOOTOUT
4-3

OVERALL
21st

OFFENSE
2.82 GPG (27th)

DEFENSE
3.15 GAA (19th)

POWER PLAY
12.2% (32nd)

PENALTY KILL
83.4% (4th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.62 (11th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.37 (7th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Konecny (19:50)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
T. Sanheim (23:48)

FAST FACTS

COACH
John Tortorella

GM
Daniel Briere

ARENA
Wells Fargo Center

CAPACITY
19,173

AHL AFFILIATE
Lehigh Valley Phantoms

ECHL AFFILIATE
Reading Royals

PLAYOFF RECORD
7-6 (since 2020)

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

Sanheim are used quite a bit in important situations. The Flyers decided to re-sign veteran Erik Johnson to provide leadership both on and off the ice. Philadelphia is hoping that a year of experience for Zamula, along with hopefuls Ronnie Attard and Adam Ginning, will pay off. Rasmus Ristolainen is coming back after undergoing surgery to repair a ruptured triceps tendon. The team needs his physical presence, especially in the defensive end. The Flyers had a positive goal differential for much of the season, then slumped and finished minus-26.

GOALTENDING

Until Fedotov receives appreciable playing time, it's difficult to say in which direction the goaltending is headed. In a brief three-game NHL trial last season, he showed flashes of his form from the KHL. Ersson held his own after taking over the starting job when Hart left the team in the middle of the season. On paper, Ersson, 24, is the No. 1, at least until training camp and preseason action. If Fedotov, 27, proves to be all he's cracked up to be, the netminding is in good hands – but that's a big "if" hanging over the Flyers' crease in the meantime.

SPECIAL TEAMS

It's safe to say the Flyers need a bounce-back year from Sean Couturier, who returned last year after missing a season-and-a-half due to a pair of back operations and wasn't quite himself down the stretch. Couturier will be a key if the Flyers are to keep killing penalties at a high rate (fourth in the NHL at 83.4 percent last season). As for the power play, it certainly won't hurt to have Michkov on the ice as much as possible. A not-so-overworked Sanheim should also be helpful. Getting more shots on net would be a useful strategy.

INTANGIBLES

The Flyers named Couturier captain in February after going nearly two seasons without one, and that move helped in the leadership department. Almost making the playoffs last year should be a motivating factor this time around. Konecny getting an 'A' shows he's a big part of the team's nucleus. The Flyers are a young team looking for direction, and veterans such as Scott Laughton, Garnet Hathaway and Johnson figure prominently in that area.

CUP ODDS

63/1

ROOKIES

The only freshman practically guaranteed a spot on the roster is Michkov. He's impressed scouts with his mobility and high hockey IQ. On defense, Emil Andrae has turned in some impressive work with AHL Lehigh Valley. But it would take several injuries for him to make the jump.

X-FACTOR

The Flyers don't have enough depth to overcome a slew of injuries, especially if they happen to key players such as Konecny, Sanheim or Foerster. Philadelphia needs continued production from Owen Tippett, Joel Farabee and Morgan Frost and for secondary scorers such as Noah Cates and Bobby Brink to improve on last year's totals.

THE BRASS

Last season showed that governor and CEO Dan Hilferty's decisions to hire Briere as GM and Keith Jones as president of hockey ops were wise ones. The Flyers generally overachieved, earning wins over every team except Nashville, and they're looking to raise more eyebrows this year.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Joel Farabee	1. Sean Couturier	1. Travis Konecny
2. Owen Tippett	2. Morgan Frost	2. Matvei Michkov
3. Tyson Foerster	3. Ryan Poehling	3. Bobby Brink
4. Noah Cates	4. Scott Laughton	4. Garnet Hathaway
5. Nicolas Deslauriers	5. Rodrigo Abols	5. Samu Tuomaala

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Travis Sanheim	6. Egor Zamula	1. Samuel Ersson
2. Cam York	7. Erik Johnson	2. Ivan Fedotov
3. Jamie Drysdale	8. Ronnie Attard	3. Cal Petersen
4. Rasmus Ristolainen	9. Adam Ginning	
5. Nick Seeler	10. Emil Andrae	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Cam Atkinson, RW; Carter Hart, G; Marc Staal, D; Felix Sandstrom, G

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Matvei Michkov
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Sochi (KHL)
Brilliant scoring touch and playmaking ability. Going forward, focus is on the finer details.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Jett Luchanko
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Guelph (OHL)
Responsible two-way pivot with an eye for picking a pass. Brings competitive edge every shift.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Oliver Bonk
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 London (OHL)
Stellar sophomore OHL season and strong showing at world juniors. Ability to QB a power play.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Emil Andrae
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Lehigh Valley (AHL)
Exudes on-ice intelligence: sees the ice and makes smart plays. Stronger than size suggests.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

5. Samu Tuomaala
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Lehigh Valley (AHL)
Promising rookie AHL campaign despite late-season dip. Good motor. Plays with some fire.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

6. Jack Berglund
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)
Skating isn't great, but he's growing into 6-foot-3 frame. Can physically dominate defenders.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Spencer Gill
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Rimouski (QMJHL)
Stretches the ice with first pass, and makes well-timed pinches. Defensive game needs polish.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Aleksei Kolosov
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 Minsk (KHL)
Not the biggest, but he's a battler. Saw shots in volume on middling KHL club and responded well.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Carson Bjarnason
Pos G **Age** 19
2023-24 Brandon (WHL)
Active in cutting down angles and challenging shooters. Has ideal size for big-league goalie.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

10. Egor Zavragin
Pos G **Age** 19
2023-24 Khanty-Mansiysk (Rus.2)
Hasn't yet played in KHL, but his minor and junior numbers leap off the page. Work in progress.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
80	
69 Konecny	
60	
59 Tippett	
57 Frost	
53 Couturier	
51 Michkov	
44 Foerster	
44 Farabee	
	Drysdale 43
	Sanheim 41
40	
40 Laughton	
37 Poehling	
	York 33
28 Brink	
24 Cates	
	Zamula 23
20	
	Ristolainen 18
17 Hathaway	
	Andrae 14
	Seeler 12
9 Deslauriers	
	Johnson 4
0	

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 11	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Washington	6:00 PM
Wed, Oct 23	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Minnesota	1:00 PM
Sun, Oct 27	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
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Sat, Nov 23	vs Chicago	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
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Fri, Nov 29	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
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Sat, Dec 7	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Wed, Dec 18	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
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Thu, Jan 16	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ New Jersey	12:30 PM
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Thu, Mar 20	@ Washington	7:00 PM
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Sun, Mar 23	@ Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs Buffalo	1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 31	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 9	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Ottawa	1:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM

YURY KUZMIN/KHL PHOTO

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Carson Bjarnason	19	6-3	186	Left	Brandon, Man.	51st overall (2023)	Brandon (WHL)	46	24-17-4	3.01	.907
Samuel Ersson	24	6-3	194	Left	Falun, Swe.	143rd overall (2018)	Philadelphia	51	23-19-7	2.82	.890
Ivan Fedotov	27	6-7	214	Left	Lappeenranta, Fin.	188th overall (2015)	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	44	21-22-1	2.37	.914
Aleksei Kolosov	22	6-1	185	Left	Minsk, Blr.	78th overall (2021)	Minsk (KHL)	47	22-21-3	2.39	.907
Cal Petersen	29	6-2	185	Right	Waterloo, Iowa	Trade: LA 6/6/23	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	28	10-15-3	2.71	.902
Egor Zavragin	19	6-3	183	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	87th overall (2023)	Khanty-Mansiysk (Rus.2)	17	13-1-0	1.60	.943

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Emil Andrae	22	5-9	189	Left	Vastervik, Swe.	54th overall (2020)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	61	5	27	32	66
Ronnie Attard	25	6-3	208	Right	White Lake, Mich.	72nd overall (2019)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	48	10	17	27	37
Louie Belpedio	28	5-11	197	Right	Skokie, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	38	4	6	10	55
Oliver Bonk	19	6-2	180	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	22nd overall (2023)	London (OHL)	60	24	43	67	32
Jamie Drysdale	22	5-11	185	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Ana 1/8/24	Anaheim/Philadelphia	34	3	7	10	8
Ryan Ellis	33	5-10	180	Right	Hamilton, Ont.	Trade: Nsh 7/17/21	Philadelphia	-	-	DNP	-	-
Spencer Gill	18	6-4	185	Right	Moncton, N.B.	59th overall (2024)	Rimouski (QMJHL)	65	12	34	46	62
Adam Ginning	24	6-3	196	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	50th overall (2018)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	58	2	13	15	82
Helge Grans	22	6-4	205	Right	Ljungby, Swe.	Trade: LA 6/6/23	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	56	1	7	8	24
Erik Johnson	36	6-4	225	Right	Bloomington, Minn.	Trade: Buf 3/8/24	Buffalo/Philadelphia	67	5	1	6	26
Matteo Mann	19	6-5	222	Right	Sackville, N.B.	199th overall (2023)	Saint John (QMJHL)	42	6	7	13	68
Hunter McDonald	22	6-4	205	Left	Fairport, N.Y.	165th overall (2022)	Northeastern (HE)	23	1	5	6	32
Austin Moline	18	6-4	193	Right	Las Vegas, Nev.	205th overall (2024)	Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)	57	8	27	35	16
Ty Murchison	21	6-2	192	Left	Corona, Calif.	158th overall (2021)	Arizona State (NCAA)	37	3	4	7	62
Rasmus Ristolainen	29	6-4	208	Right	Turku, Fin.	Trade: Buf 7/23/21	Philadelphia	31	1	3	4	8
Ethan Samson	21	6-1	180	Right	Delta, B.C.	174th overall (2021)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	63	3	9	12	56
Travis Sanheim	28	6-4	222	Left	Elkhorn, Man.	17th overall (2014)	Philadelphia	81	10	34	44	48
Nick Seeler	31	6-3	197	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Philadelphia	71	1	12	13	78
Carter Sotheran	19	6-3	197	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	135th overall (2023)	Portland (WHL)	66	13	27	40	68
Cam York	23	6-0	194	Left	Anaheim, Calif.	14th overall (2019)	Philadelphia	82	10	20	30	44
Egor Zamula	24	6-3	200	Left	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 9/20/18	Philadelphia	66	5	16	21	32
Brian Zanetti	21	6-2	181	Left	Lugano, Sui.	110th overall (2021)	Langnau (Sui.)	38	0	6	6	8

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Rodrigo Abols	28	6-4	206	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 6/15/24	Rogle (Swe.)	50	14	12	26	10
Jon-Randall Avon	21	6-0	175	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 9/22/21	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	65	9	9	18	20
Denver Barkey	19	5-9	155	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	95th overall (2023)	London (OHL)	64	35	67	102	28
Jack Berglund	18	6-3	209	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	51st overall (2024)	Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)	41	15	19	34	20
Sean Couturier	31	6-4	210	Left	Phoenix, Ariz.	8th overall (2011)	Philadelphia	74	11	27	38	29
Morgan Frost	25	6-0	193	Left	Aurora, Ont.	27th overall (2017)	Philadelphia	71	13	28	41	22
Rhett Gardner	28	6-3	210	Left	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	60	10	13	23	89
Ryan Johansen	32	6-3	218	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	Trade: Col 3/6/24	Colorado	63	13	10	23	34
Scott Laughton	30	6-1	191	Left	Oakville, Ont.	20th overall (2012)	Philadelphia	82	13	26	39	69
Jett Luchanko	18	5-11	180	Right	London, Ont.	13th overall (2024)	Guelph (OHL)	68	20	54	74	36
Ryan MacPherson	19	6-0	176	Left	Windsor, Ont.	172nd overall (2023)	Penticton (BCHL)	54	16	22	38	12
Owen McLaughlin	21	6-0	160	Left	Phoenixville, Pa.	206th overall (2021)	North Dakota (NCHC)	39	13	26	39	8
Ryan Poehling	25	6-2	204	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Philadelphia	77	11	17	28	6
Anthony Richard	27	5-10	185	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Providence (AHL)	59	25	30	55	37
Massimo Rizzo	23	5-10	175	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	Trade: Car 8/9/23	Denver (NCHC)	30	10	34	44	10
Heikki Ruohonen	18	6-1	204	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	107th overall (2024)	Kiekko-Espoo Jr. (Fin.)	37	20	27	47	10

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alex Bump	20	6-0	195	Left	Burnsville, Minn.	133rd overall (2022)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	38	14	22	36	27
Noah Cates	25	6-2	194	Left	Stillwater, Minn.	137th overall (2017)	Philadelphia	59	6	12	18	0
Alex Ciernik	19	5-11	176	Left	Wolfsburg, Ger.	120th overall (2023)	Vastervik (Swe.2)	26	4	10	14	6
Nicolas Deslauriers	33	6-1	218	Left	LaSalle, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Philadelphia	60	1	3	4	89
Elliot Desnoyers	22	5-11	183	Left	St-Hyacinthe, Que.	135th overall (2020)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	63	6	16	22	23
Oscar Eklind	26	6-4	220	Left	Trelleborg, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/8/24	Lulea (Swe.)	48	17	11	28	64
Joel Farabee	24	6-0	186	Left	Syracuse, N.Y.	14th overall (2018)	Philadelphia	82	22	28	50	37
Santeri Sulku	20	6-3	185	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	197th overall (2022)	Hermes (Fin.2)	35	17	9	26	2

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Bobby Brink	23	5-8	169	Right	Minnetonka, Minn.	34th overall (2019)	Philadelphia	57	11	12	23	10
Bryce Brodzinski	24	6-0	197	Right	Blaine, Minn.	196th overall (2019)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	14	22	36	18
Tyson Foerster	22	6-2	215	Right	Alliston, Ont.	23rd overall (2020)	Philadelphia	77	20	13	33	32
Alexis Gendron	20	5-9	175	Left	Coteau du Lac, Que.	220th overall (2022)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	17	5	2	7	13
Garnet Hathaway	32	6-2	212	Right	Naples, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Philadelphia	82	7	10	17	132
Devin Kaplan	20	6-2	199	Right	Bridgewater, N.J.	69th overall (2022)	Boston University (HE)	37	5	18	23	34
Cole Knuble	20	5-10	184	Right	Grand Rapids, Mich.	103rd overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	36	9	11	20	12
Travis Konecny	27	5-10	192	Right	London, Ont.	24th overall (2015)	Philadelphia	76	33	35	68	67
Olle Lycksell	25	5-10	163	Left	Oskarshamn, Swe.	168th overall (2017)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	38	19	20	39	14
Matvei Michkov	19	5-10	172	Left	Perm, Rus.	7th overall (2023)	SKA St. Petersburg/Sochi (KHL)	48	19	22	41	26
Ilya Pautov	18	5-11	167	Left	Novosibirsk, Rus.	173rd overall (2024)	Krasnaya Armiya Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	46	15	30	45	14
Noah Powell	19	6-1	201	Right	Northbrook, Ill.	148th overall (2024)	Dubuque (USHL)	61	43	31	74	57
Owen Tippett	25	6-1	210	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	Trade: Fla 3/19/22	Philadelphia	78	28	25	53	12
Samu Tuomaala	21	5-10	174	Right	Oulu, Fin.	46th overall (2021)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	69	15	28	43	12
Zayde Wisdom	22	5-11	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	94th overall (2020)	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	49	2	1	3	24

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

SIDNEY CROSBY

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BY SHELLY ANDERSON

FOR THE SECOND YEAR in a row, the Penguins find themselves walking the line between retooling around a star-powered-but-aging core and going full rebuild.

The Penguins, in their second off-season under president of hockey operations and GM Kyle Dubas, primarily addressed lineup depth after missing the playoffs for the second straight spring. The main players – centers Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin and defensemen Kris Letang and Erik Karlsson, along with a handful of secondary stalwarts – are charged with getting back to the post-season and then accelerating to contender status a season or two beyond.

Dubas traded winger Reilly Smith, but the rest of the top-six forward group remains intact. Defenseman P.O. Joseph was allowed to leave via free agency, replaced by UFA signee Matt Grzelcyk. A trade netted veteran center Kevin Hayes. Beyond that, Dubas primarily brought in depth pieces Anthony Beauvillier, Sebastian Aho and Blake Lizotte – all on short-term deals – and stockpiled some extra draft picks for the next couple of years.

OFFENSE

Crosby, who turned 37 in August, showed he's still among the very elite, leading the Penguins last season with 42 goals and 94 points while playing all 82 games, but he was left to carry the team for stretches, especially after his left winger, Jake Guentzel, got shipped out at the trade deadline. Malkin, 38, was inconsistent and started to show erosion in his dominating style, but he still had 27 goals and 67 points. Top-six winger Bryan Rust had 28 goals, but injuries have become a concern after he missed 20 games

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
38-32-12 (.537)

OVERTIME
4-9

SHOOTOUT
2-3

OVERALL
19th

OFFENSE
3.09 GPG (19th)

DEFENSE
3.02 GAA (13th)

POWER PLAY
15.3% (30th)

PENALTY KILL
80.7% (11th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.82 (4th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.69 (27th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Guentzel (20:53)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
K. Letang (24:41)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Mike Sullivan

GM
Kyle Dubas

ARENA
PPG Paints Arena

CAPACITY
18,187

AHL AFFILIATE
Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Penguins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Wheeling Nailers

PLAYOFF RECORD
6-11 (since 2020)

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

EVGENI MALKIN

to three separate issues. Karlsson, acquired in the blockbuster trade of the 2023 off-season, contributed 56 points, but that was little more than half the 101 he had in winning the Norris Trophy the previous season with San Jose. There will be some new names to help provide depth scoring, and a couple of prospects could break through, but there are a lot of ifs – just as there were a year ago.

DEFENSE

Marcus Pettersson, playing primarily with Karlsson, was the Penguins' steadiest defenseman. The rest of the pairings are in flux with Ryan Graves coming off a discombobulated first season in Pittsburgh, Grzelcyk added to the mix, Joseph leaving and young players such as Jack St. Ivany, Ryan Shea and John Ludvig faring well as rookies last season. Karlsson and Letang were prone to occasional costly lapses, and the overall team defense needs to improve. Pittsburgh ranked around the league's midpoint in goals against and had trouble all season holding onto leads.

GOALTENDING

Somewhat surprisingly, the Penguins are sticking with the status quo. Tristan Jarry was supplanted as the No. 1 down the stretch by Alex Nedeljkovic, who likely missed out on better offers to re-sign. Jarry, who got a five-year deal last summer, enters the season as the starter on paper but could be on a short leash. Minor-leaguer Joel Blomqvist appears close to being NHL-ready.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pittsburgh's power play was decidedly nothing special, defying its talented personnel to finish 30th in the NHL at 15.3 percent and allowing 12 shorthanded goals, which tied for most in the league. That performance resulted in the firing of associate coach Todd Reirden. Former San Jose coach David Quinn, the new assistant, will take over the power play. The penalty kill was adequate at 80.7 percent, tied for 10th overall. Some of the PK's key personnel, such as forwards Noel Acciari, Lars Eller, Drew O'Connor and Rust, are back, but there will also be some new faces, with the bottom six seeing some turnover.

CUP ODDS

46/1

INTANGIBLES

The Pens may be at the point where even Crosby's unparalleled leadership can't overcome a lack of high-end talent to lift the team into the playoffs.

ROOKIES

Mortgaging the future for years as part of a win-now approach has hurt the pipeline, but in center Brayden Yager, defender Owen Pickering and goalie Blomqvist, the Penguins have prospects who could successfully matriculate to the NHL in 2024-25.

X-FACTOR

Crosby's contract status could affect the team's psyche. He's eligible to become a UFA next summer and didn't immediately sign an extension when it became allowable.

THE BRASS

Dubas needs to prove himself to the fans. Coach Mike Sullivan likewise runs the risk of falling out of favor. Perhaps Quinn can not only improve the power play but also get the most out of Karlsson after coaching him in San Jose. It's unclear if or how the departure of executive David Beeston from ownership group Fenway Sports Group will affect FSG's oversight. Beeston appeared to be heavily involved in the group's hockey interest.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

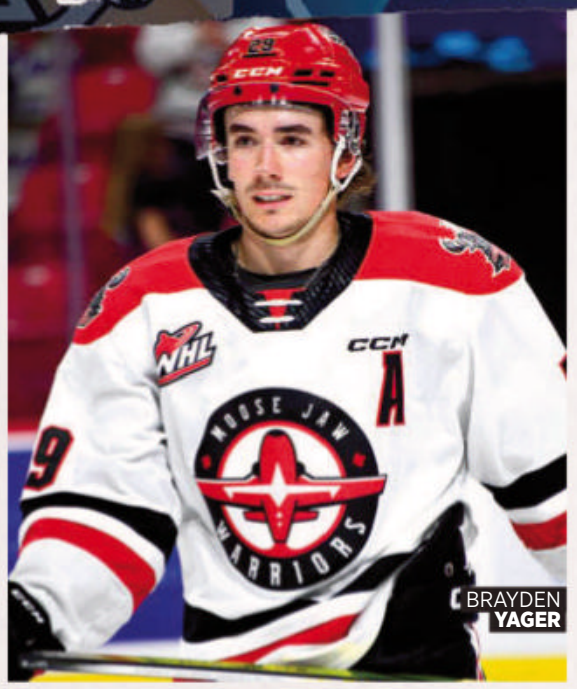
LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Michael Bunting	1. Sidney Crosby	1. Bryan Rust
2. Drew O'Connor	2. Evgeni Malkin	2. Rickard Rakell
3. Anthony Beauvillier	3. Lars Eller	3. Valtteri Puustinen
4. Noel Acciari	4. Kevin Hayes	4. Jesse Puljujarvi
5. Tristan Broz	5. Blake Lizotte	5. Corey Andonovski

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Kris Letang	6. Jack St. Ivany	1. Tristan Jarry
2. Erik Karlsson	7. Sebastian Aho	2. Alex Nedeljkovic
3. Marcus Pettersson	8. John Ludvig	3. Joel Blomqvist
4. Matt Grzelcyk	9. Owen Pickering	
5. Ryan Graves	10. Isaac Belliveau	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Reilly Smith, RW; P.O. Joseph, D; Jeff Carter, C; Jansen Harkins, C; Emil Bemstrom, C

BRETT HOLMES-USA TODAY SPORTS



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Brayden Yager
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Moose Jaw (WHL)
High-IQ pivot reads and reacts, attacking holes and producing. Good shot and 200-foot game.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Owen Pickering
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Swift Current (WHL)
Always looking to join the rush. Made defensive strides thanks to long reach and strength.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Tanner Howe
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Regina (WHL)
Lacks size, not heart or competitive fire. Well-rounded, two-way game and offensive skill set.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Harrison Brunicke
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Kamloops (WHL)
Projectable size paired with fluid skating stride. He's improved with each passing season.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Ville Koivunen
Pos LW **Age** 21
2023-24 Karpat (Fin.)
Key piece in Jake Guentzel trade. Broke out in Finland and contributed immediately in AHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

6. Joel Blomqvist
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 WB/Scranton (AHL)
De facto AHL No. 1 adept at reading play. Darts across crease to shut down cross-ice attempts.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Emil Pieniniemi
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Karpat (Fin.)
Made most of opportunity in top Finnish tier. Skating and size are tools, but he lacks puck skill.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Vasily Ponomarev
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 WB/Scranton (AHL)
Solid AHL numbers, and he looked effective in brief NHL stint. Dogged in pursuit of loose pucks.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Sam Poulin
Pos RW **Age** 23
2023-24 WB/Scranton (AHL)
Rock-solid with puck on his stick, but his finishing runs hot and cold. Skating can improve.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. Sergei Murashov
Pos G **Age** 20
2023-24 Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)
Exceptional numbers in Russian junior circuit. Ready for next challenge against pro shooters.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	
91 Crosby	
80	
	65 Rust Karlsson 65
60	60 Malkin
59 Bunting	
	Letang 45
43 Rakell	
40	
37 Hayes	
35 O'Connor	
33 Beauvillier	
32 Puustinen	
27 Eller	
27 Puljujarvi	
	Graves 25
23 Lizotte	Pettersson 23
20	
17 Acciari	
16 Bemstrom	Grzelcyk 16
13 Nieto	
	Ludvig 10
	Aho 8
	Shea 4
0	

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
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Thu, Mar 27	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs Ottawa	5:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Dallas	3:30 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ Chicago	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Fri, Apr 11	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Boston	3:30 PM
Thu, Apr 17	vs Washington	7:00 PM

NICK PETTIGREW/MOOSE JAW WARRIORS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Joel Blomqvist	22	6-2	183	Left	Uusikaarlepyy, Fin.	52nd overall (2020)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	45	25-12-6	2.16	.921
Taylor Gauthier	23	6-1	195	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/22	Wheeling (ECHL)	42	24-16-1	2.23	.923
Tristan Jarry	29	6-2	194	Left	Surrey, B.C.	44th overall (2013)	Pittsburgh	51	19-25-5	2.91	.903
Filip Larsson	26	6-2	194	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/29/24	Leksand (Swe.)	28	19-9-0	1.93	.920
Filip Lindberg	25	6-0	180	Left	Espoo, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	TPS (Fin.)	31	6-12-11	2.54	.883
Sergei Murashov	20	6-0	167	Right	Yaroslavl, Rus.	118th overall (2022)	Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)	34	24-4-2	2.03	.930
Alex Nedeljkovic	28	6-0	208	Left	Parma, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	38	18-7-7	2.97	.902

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Sebastian Aho	28	5-10	180	Left	Umea, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	NY Islanders	58	2	7	9	12
Isaac Belliveau	21	6-2	185	Left	Fleurimont, Que.	154th overall (2021)	Wheeling (ECHL)	70	14	24	38	24
Harrison Brunicke	18	6-3	184	Right	Johannesburg, Rsa.	44th overall (2024)	Kamloops (WHL)	49	10	11	21	47
Nate Clurman	26	6-2	205	Right	Boulder, Colo.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Colorado (AHL)	37	1	4	5	21
Ryan Graves	29	6-5	220	Left	Yarmouth, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	70	3	11	14	30
Matt Grzelcyk	30	5-10	180	Left	Charlestown, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	63	2	9	11	37
Finn Harding	19	6-1	192	Right	Toronto, Ont.	223rd overall (2024)	Mississauga (OHL)	68	10	24	34	54
Mac Hollowell	26	5-9	162	Right	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Hartford (AHL)	64	3	41	44	63
Kalle Kangas	19	6-4	205	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	223rd overall (2023)	Jokerit (Fin.2)	40	4	5	9	67
Erik Karlsson	34	6-0	190	Right	Landsbro, Swe.	Trade: Ott 9/13/18	Pittsburgh	82	11	45	56	44
Filip Kral	24	6-2	198	Left	Blansko, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/21/24	Pelicans (Fin.)	46	5	32	37	10
Daniel Laatsch	22	6-5	182	Left	Altoona, Pa.	215th overall (2021)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	40	2	9	11	6
Kris Letang	37	6-0	201	Right	Montreal, Que.	62nd overall (2005)	Pittsburgh	82	10	41	51	62
John Ludvig	24	6-1	213	Left	Liberec, Cze.	Waivers: Fla 10/9/23	Pittsburgh	33	3	2	5	47
Joseph Masonius	27	6-0	190	Left	Long Branch, N.J.	181st overall (2016)	Newfoundland/Cincinnati (ECHL)	25	1	5	6	31
Marcus Pettersson	28	6-3	177	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: Ana 12/3/18	Pittsburgh	82	4	26	30	44
Owen Pickering	20	6-3	179	Left	St. Adolphe, Man.	21st overall (2022)	Swift Current (WHL)	59	7	39	46	35
Emil Pieniniemi	19	6-2	170	Left	Kuopio, Fin.	91st overall (2023)	Karpat (Fin.)	38	2	4	6	10
Chase Pietila	20	6-2	186	Right	Howell, Mich.	111th overall (2024)	Michigan Tech (CCHA)	40	3	19	22	60
Ryan Shea	27	6-2	200	Left	Milton, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	31	1	0	1	6
Jack St. Ivany	25	6-3	198	Right	Manhattan Beach, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 8/20/22	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	54	4	11	15	30
Joona Vaisanen	20	6-0	175	Right	Espoo, Fin.	175th overall (2024)	Dubuque (USHL)	53	9	31	40	30

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Noel Acciari	32	5-10	209	Right	Johnston, R.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	55	4	3	7	10
Tristan Broz	21	6-0	178	Left	River Falls, Wis.	58th overall (2021)	Denver (NCHC)	43	16	24	40	13
Sidney Crosby	37	5-11	200	Left	Cole Harbour, N.S.	1st overall (2005)	Pittsburgh	82	42	52	94	40
Luke Devlin	20	6-2	185	Left	Memphis, Tenn.	182nd overall (2022)	Cornell (ECAC)	28	6	2	8	12
Lars Eller	35	6-2	205	Left	Rodovre, Den.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	82	15	16	31	32
Cooper Foster	19	5-11	172	Left	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	174th overall (2023)	Ottawa (OHL)	59	21	31	52	33
Jordan Frasca	23	6-2	190	Left	Brampton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/22	Wheeling (ECHL)	40	11	22	33	30
Jonathan Gruden	24	6-0	172	Left	Rochester Hills, Mich.	Trade: Ott 10/7/20	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	47	13	11	24	43
Filip Hallander	24	6-1	190	Left	Sundsvall, Swe.	Trade: Tor 7/17/21	Timra (Swe.)	51	14	22	36	18
Jimmy Huntington	25	6-0	200	Left	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Hershey (AHL)	67	16	17	33	39
Blake Lizotte	26	5-9	175	Left	Lindstrom, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Los Angeles	62	7	8	15	20
Evgeni Malkin	38	6-3	195	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	2nd overall (2004)	Pittsburgh	82	27	40	67	70
Zam Plante	20	5-9	161	Left	Mannheim, Ger.	150th overall (2022)	Fargo (USHL)	57	26	45	71	4
Vasiliy Ponomarev	22	5-10	180	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Tucson/Chicago/WBS (AHL)	45	9	21	30	16
Mac Swanson	18	5-8	167	Left	Nuremberg, Ger.	207th overall (2024)	Fargo (USHL)	55	26	51	77	6
Kirill Tankov	22	6-1	180	Left	Yurga, Rus.	218th overall (2021)	SKA-Neva St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	42	11	13	24	16
Brayden Yager	19	5-11	166	Right	Saskatoon, Sask.	14th overall (2023)	Moose Jaw (WHL)	57	35	60	95	20
Chase Yoder	22	5-10	176	Left	Fairview, Texas	170th overall (2020)	Providence (HE)	35	11	9	20	26

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Anthony Beauvillier	27	5-11	180	Left	Sorel-Tracy, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vancouver/Chicago/Nashville	60	5	12	17	8
Michael Bunting	29	6-0	192	Left	Scarborough, Ont.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Carolina/Pittsburgh	81	19	36	55	57
Tanner Howe	18	5-10	175	Left	Prince Albert, Sask.	46th overall (2024)	Regina (WHL)	68	28	49	77	77
Bokondji Imama	28	6-1	221	Left	Montreal, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Belleville (AHL)	53	3	7	10	115
Emil Jarventie	19	5-10	167	Left	Vantaa, Fin.	217th overall (2023)	Koovee (Fin.2)	41	9	12	21	12
Ville Koivunen	21	5-11	161	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Karpat (Fin.)	59	22	34	56	26
Joona Koppanen	26	6-5	216	Left	Tampere, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	58	6	15	21	22
Bennett MacArthur	23	5-11	191	Left	Summerside, P.E.I.	Trade: TB 6/30/24	Orlando/Allen (ECHL)	55	11	21	32	14
Matt Nieto	31	5-11	187	Left	Long Beach, Calif.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Pittsburgh	22	1	3	4	4
Drew O'Connor	26	6-3	200	Left	Chatham, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 3/10/20	Pittsburgh	79	16	17	33	20

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Corey Andonovski	25	6-1	195	Right	Uxbridge, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/10/22	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	63	7	23	30	99
Raivis Ansons	22	6-1	191	Left	Riga, Lat.	149th overall (2020)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	34	2	5	7	25
Emil Bemstrom	25	6-0	195	Right	Nykoping, Swe.	Trade: Clb 2/22/24	Columbus/Pittsburgh	56	8	8	16	12
Kasper Bjorkqvist	27	6-1	198	Left	Espoo, Fin.	61st overall (2016)	Karpat (Fin.)	46	4	9	13	16
Kevin Hayes	32	6-5	216	Left	Dorchester, Mass.	Trade: StL 6/29/24	St. Louis	79	13	16	29	12
Mikhail Ilyin	19	6-0	181	Left	Cherepovets, Rus.	142nd overall (2023)	Cherepovets (KHL)	65	12	17	29	20
Marc Johnstone	28	6-0	181	Right	Cranford, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	41	3	6	9	29
Cruz Lucius	20	6-0	178	Right	Lawrence, Kan.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	36	13	21	34	10
Sam Poulin	23	6-1	208	Left	Blainville, Que.	21st overall (2019)	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL)	41	16	15	31	35
Jesse Puljujarvi	26	6-4	201	Right	Alvkarleby, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 2/4/24	Pittsburgh	22	3	1	4	6
Valtteri Puustinen	25	5-9	183	Right	Kuopio, Fin.	203rd overall (2019)	Pittsburgh	52	5	15	20	6
Rickard Rakell	31	6-1	195	Right	Sundbyberg, Swe.	Trade: Ana 3/21/22	Pittsburgh	70	15	22	37	22
Bryan Rust	32	5-11	192	Right	Pontiac, Mich.	80th overall (2010)	Pittsburgh	62	28	28	56	20

ST. LOUIS BLUES

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BY LOU KORAC

FOR THE FIRST TIME since 2011, the Blues failed to qualify for the playoffs in back-to-back seasons, but they won't deviate from their plan of building from within and getting younger by doing so.

The Blues improved last year – going 43-33-6 – but fell short of the post-season by seven points. GM Doug Armstrong continues to preach patience and insists the team wants to be competitive while retooling a roster that only picked up depth pieces.

St. Louis re-signed Pavel Buchnevich to a six-year, $48-million extension, which keeps the left winger in town through 2031, and acquired depth forwards Alexandre Texier from Columbus, Radek Faksa from Dallas and Mathieu Joseph from Ottawa. The team also signed Joseph's younger brother, defenseman P.O. Joseph, who was not tendered a qualifying offer from Pittsburgh. In addition, veteran coach Claude Julien was brought in as an assistant on Drew Bannister's staff.

OFFENSE

Robert Thomas set career highs in goals (26), assists (60) and points (86) to lead the team last season, becoming the first Blues player since Craig Janney (68 in 1993-94) with 60-plus assists. Despite a slow start, Jordan Kyrou (31 goals) surpassed the 30-goal plateau for the second straight year. Buchnevich had 63 points and has scored at least 26 goals in all three seasons in St. Louis. Veteran center Brayden Schenn (20 goals in 2023-24) has scored 20 or more in five of seven years with the Blues. St. Louis has a deep forward group, even after trading Kevin Hayes to Pittsburgh at the draft.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-33-6 (.561)

OVERTIME
7-4

SHOOTOUT
5-2

OVERALL
16th

OFFENSE
2.85 (25th)

DEFENSE
3.02 (15th)

POWER PLAY
18.0% (24th)

PENALTY KILL
79.1% (18th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.27 (28th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.87 (28th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
R. Thomas (20:58)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. Parayko (23:52)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Drew Bannister

GM
Doug Armstrong

ARENA
Enterprise Center

CAPACITY
18,096

AHL AFFILIATE
Springfield Thunderbirds

ECHL AFFILIATE
Florida Everblades

PLAYOFF RECORD
8-14 (since 2020)

SIMON FEARN-USA TODAY SPORTS

COLTON PARAYKO

DEFENSE

There was significant improvement here, going from allowing 3.63 goals per game in 2022-23 to 3.02 last season. A lot of the credit goes to the top pair of Colton Parayko and Nick Leddy. Justin Faulk was limited to just 60 games due to injury, and he scored a career-low two goals. Torey Krug could miss the season due to a pre-arthritic condition in his left ankle, leaving Scott Perunovich, Matthew Kessel, Tyler Tucker and Joseph to battle for a top-four slot and fill out the bottom pair.

GOALTENDING

Jordan Binnington bounced back to go 28-21-5, his most wins since he won 30 games in 2020. His goals-against average of 2.84 was his lowest since 2020-21 (2.65), and his save percentage (.913) was his best since his rookie season in 2018-19. Joel Hofer was capable in his first full NHL season, going 15-12-1 with a 2.65 GAA and .914 SP. Binnington and Hofer will return as the tandem for a second straight year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

St. Louis' power play and penalty kill have fallen sharply since being the only team to rank in the top five in each category in 2021-22. The power play dropped to 24th last year (18.0 percent), while the penalty kill was 18th (79.1 percent). Thomas, Kyrou and Buchnevich need to be catalysts on the power play, while the arrivals of Texier, Faksa and Mathieu Joseph will help the penalty kill.

INTANGIBLES

While keeping with the desire to incorporate more draft picks into the lineup, the Blues remain in a competitive mode and addressed the need for veteran leadership with their off-season trades and additions. Schenn, Parayko, Faulk, Thomas and Krug remain the leadership group. Right winger Kasperi Kapanen, brought back on a one-year, $1-million contract, and Faksa are the only potential UFAs for 2025. Armstrong said he wanted the Blues to get bigger and faster and did so with the off-season additions.

ROOKIES

Will forwards Zack Bolduc and Zach Dean become full-time NHLers after each got a taste last year? Bolduc had five goals and nine points in 25 games in 2023-24. And will Dalibor Dvorsky, the No. 10 pick in the 2023 draft, make his big-league debut this season? He racked up 45 goals and 88 points in 52 games with OHL Sudbury after coming over from Sweden, where he had zero points in 10 games with Oskarshamn in the SHL.

CUP ODDS

61/1

X-FACTOR

Binnington showed once again that he can carry a team on his shoulders, and his play will go a long way in determining whether St. Louis returns to the playoffs this time around. His 16.5 goals saved above expected placed him fifth among NHL stoppers, according to moneypuck.com.

THE BRASS

Entering his 15th season as GM, Armstrong signed a three-year extension to remain with the organization through 2029 but will move solely into the position of president of hockey operations, relinquishing the GM duties to former Blues stalwart Alexander Steen, who will take the role starting in 2026. Bannister, meanwhile, had the "interim" tag removed from his title when he signed a two-year contract in May.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Pavel Buchnevich	1. Robert Thomas	1. Jordan Kyrou
2. Jake Neighbours	2. Brayden Schenn	2. Zack Bolduc
3. Brandon Saad	3. Radek Faksa	3. Mathieu Joseph
4. Alexandre Texier	4. Oskar Sundqvist	4. Alexey Toropchenko
5. Nathan Walker	5. Nikita Alexandrov	5. Kasperi Kapanen

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Colton Parayko	6. Scott Perunovich	1. Jordan Binnington
2. Justin Faulk	7. P.O. Joseph	2. Joel Hofer
3. Torey Krug	8. Tyler Tucker	3. Vadim Zherenko
4. Nick Leddy	9. Leo Loof	INJURED
5. Matthew Kessel	10. Samuel Johannesson	INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Kevin Hayes, RW; Sammy Blais, LW; Calle Rosen, D; Jakub Vrana, LW; Marco Scandella, D

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jimmy Snuggerud
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Minnesota (Big Ten)
Big-league shot and accuracy paired with strength. Not far from punching ticket to the NHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Dalibor Dvorsky
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Sudbury (OHL)
Always a step ahead thanks to on-ice intelligence. Improving his skating will elevate his game.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Adam Jiricek
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Plzen (Cze.)
Plays physical game, but injury issues hindered development in his draft year. Possible boom or bust.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Otto Stenberg
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Frolunda (Swe.)
Never shies away from contact in pursuit of offense. Two-way pivot getting pro reps in Sweden.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Theo Lindstein
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Brynas (Swe.2)
He plays with pace and makes a crisp first pass. Adjusting to defending at pro level is a challenge.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Zachary Bolduc
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Springfield (AHL)
Good late-season cameo a promising sign for future production. Talented handler can also shoot.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

7. Colin Ralph
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Shattuck (USHS)
Snarl to his game, and he's already 6-foot-4 and 216 pounds. Projects as middle-pairing, PK type.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Lukas Fischer
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Sarnia (OHL)
Growing into frame. He knows how to use long reach to break up plays. Has some puck skill, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Zach Dean
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Springfield (AHL)
Takes care of defensive zone before driving up ice to create offense. Goes hard on the forecheck.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 HIFK (Fin.)
Stepped up pro production in second Finnish season. Coaches know he'll commit to two-way game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	77 Thomas	
	72 Kyrou	
	69 Buchnevich	
60	56 Schenn	
		Faulk 46
40	41 Neighbours 41 Saad	
	34 Texier	
		Perunovich 29
	28 Sundqvist	Parayko 28
	26 M. Joseph	
	26 Bolduc	
	24 Toropchenko	
		Krug 21
		Leddy 21
20	20 Kapanen 19 Faksa	
	15 Walker	
		P. Joseph 12
		Kessel 10
0		

SCHEDULE

Tue, Oct 8	@ Seattle	4:30 PM
Thu, Oct 10	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 11	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Minnesota	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	vs NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Buffalo	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Chicago*	5:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Vegas	6:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 31	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ Utah	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs Colorado	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	@ Dallas	6:00 PM
Wed, Mar 5	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 7	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	vs Anaheim	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Chicago	3:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Nashville	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Colorado	4:30 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Wed, Apr 9	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Utah	8:00 PM

*Winter Classic

BRAD REMPEL/UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

ST. LOUIS BLUES

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Jordan Binnington	31	6-2	172	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	88th overall (2011)	St. Louis	57	28-21-5	2.84	.913
Will Cranley	22	6-4	185	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	163rd overall (2020)	Reading/Utah (ECHL)	33	9-15-4	3.78	.888
Colten Ellis	23	6-1	185	Left	Whycocomagh, N.S.	93rd overall (2019)	Orlando (ECHL)	21	12-5-1	2.45	.923
Joel Hofer	24	6-5	179	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	107th overall (2018)	St. Louis	30	15-12-1	2.65	.914
Vadim Zherenko	23	6-2	176	Left	Moscow, Rus.	208th overall (2019)	Springfield (AHL)	29	12-14-1	3.49	.904

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Noah Beck	23	6-4	184	Left	Richmond Hill, Ont.	194th overall (2020)	Clarkson (ECAC)	30	3	6	9	16
Jeremie Biakabutuka	22	6-4	198	Right	Longueil, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/19/23	Orlando (ECHL)	63	4	14	18	31
Michael Buchinger	20	5-11	178	Left	Markham, Ont.	88th overall (2022)	Guelph (OHL)	52	10	37	47	37
Quinton Burns	19	6-1	180	Left	Smith Falls, Ont.	74th overall (2023)	Kingston (OHL)	58	6	29	35	120
Justin Faulk	32	6-0	214	Right	South St. Paul, Minn.	Trade: Car 9/24/19	St. Louis	60	2	28	30	39
Paul Fischer	19	6-1	195	Left	Chicago, Ill.	138th overall (2023)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	34	2	14	16	30
Lukas Fischer	18	6-3	173	Left	Pontiac, Mich.	56th overall (2024)	Sarnia (OHL)	68	6	28	34	79
Marc-Andre Gaudet	20	6-3	180	Left	Moncton, N.B.	152nd overall (2022)	Orlando (ECHL)	55	6	20	26	14
Adam Jiricek	18	6-3	178	Right	Klatovy, Cze.	16th overall (2024)	Plzen (Cze.)	19	0	1	1	2
Samuel Johannesson	23	5-11	176	Right	Halmstad, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/30/24	Orebro (Swe.)	43	11	16	27	10
P.O. Joseph	25	6-2	185	Left	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Pittsburgh	52	2	9	11	14
Matthew Kessel	24	6-2	205	Right	Phoenix, Ariz.	150th overall (2020)	St. Louis	39	1	6	7	12
Arseni Koromyslov	20	6-3	180	Left	Zelenograd, Rus.	120th overall (2022)	SKA-Neva St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	32	2	8	10	22
Torey Krug	33	5-9	194	Left	Livonia, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 10/9/20	St. Louis	77	4	35	39	32
Nick Leddy	33	6-0	205	Left	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Trade: Det 3/21/22	St. Louis	82	3	25	28	14
Theo Lindstein	19	6-1	180	Left	Gavle, Swe.	29th overall (2023)	Brynas (Swe.2)	49	4	11	15	4
Leo Loof	22	6-2	176	Left	Karlstad, Swe.	88th overall (2020)	Springfield (AHL)	58	0	7	7	27
Anton Malmstrom	24	6-4	200	Left	Osternhaninge, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 3/6/23	Springfield (AHL)	21	1	3	4	14
Matthew Mayich	19	6-2	187	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	170th overall (2023)	Ottawa (OHL)	66	6	18	24	77
William McIsaac	18	6-3	192	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	145th overall (2024)	Spokane (WHL)	67	6	21	27	70
Colton Parayko	31	6-6	228	Right	St. Albert, Alta.	86th overall (2012)	St. Louis	82	10	16	26	23
Scott Perunovich	26	5-10	175	Left	Hibbing, Minn.	45th overall (2018)	St. Louis	54	0	17	17	12
Colin Ralph	18	6-4	216	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	48th overall (2024)	Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)	57	8	58	66	30
Corey Schueneman	29	5-11	197	Left	Milford, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Colorado (AHL)	64	4	18	22	24
Hunter Skinner	23	6-3	205	Right	Wyandotte, Mich.	Trade: NYR 2/9/23	Springfield (AHL)	50	3	7	10	94
Ryan Suter	39	6-1	201	Left	Madison, Wis.	Free Agent: signed 7/10/24	Dallas	82	2	15	17	28
Tyler Tucker	24	6-1	204	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	200th overall (2018)	St. Louis	26	1	1	2	42

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mikhail Abramov	23	5-11	170	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: Tor 2/17/23	Springfield (AHL)	59	14	22	36	31
Nikita Alexandrov	24	6-1	177	Left	Burgwedel, Ger.	62nd overall (2019)	St. Louis	23	0	2	2	4
Zachary Bolduc	21	6-0	187	Left	Trois-Rivieres, Que.	17th overall (2021)	Springfield (AHL)	50	8	17	25	24
Zach Dean	21	6-0	176	Left	Grande Prairie, Alta.	Trade: Veg 2/26/23	Springfield (AHL)	49	9	5	14	24
Tanner Dickinson	22	6-0	169	Left	Perrysburg, Ohio	119th overall (2020)	Orlando (ECHL)	45	8	18	26	12
Antoine Dorion	18	6-1	190	Right	Orleans, Ont.	209th overall (2024)	Quebec (QMJHL)	68	11	15	26	44
Dalibor Dvorsky	19	6-1	201	Left	Zvolen, Svk.	10th overall (2023)	Sudbury (OHL)	52	45	43	88	17
Radek Faksa	30	6-3	215	Left	Vitkov, Cze.	Trade: Dal 7/2/24	Dallas	74	7	12	19	20
Adam Jecho	18	6-5	197	Right	Zlin, Cze.	95th overall (2024)	Edmonton (WHL)	54	23	24	47	24
Aleksanteri Kaskimaki	20	5-11	181	Left	Espoo, Fin.	73rd overall (2022)	HIFK (Fin.)	48	10	7	17	14
Matvei Korotky	18	6-2	198	Right	Krasnoyarsk, Rus.	211th overall (2024)	SKA-Neva St. Petersburg Jr. (Rus.)	51	20	18	38	22
Jordan Kyrou	26	6-1	196	Right	Toronto, Ont.	35th overall (2016)	St. Louis	82	31	36	67	22
Tomas Mrsic	18	5-11	170	Left	Richmond, B.C.	113th overall (2024)	Medicine Hat (WHL)	63	23	39	62	32
Dylan Peterson	22	6-4	192	Right	Roseville, Calif.	86th overall (2020)	Boston University (HE)	35	8	12	20	73
Brayden Schenn	33	6-1	199	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Phi 6/23/17	St. Louis	82	20	26	46	56
Jakub Stancl	19	6-3	201	Left	Prague, Cze.	106th overall (2023)	Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)	28	7	7	14	12
Otto Stenberg	19	5-11	180	Left	Stenungsund, Swe.	25th overall (2023)	Frolunda (Swe.)	31	3	3	6	8
Oskar Sundqvist	30	6-3	220	Right	Boden, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/12/23	St. Louis	71	6	15	21	32
Alexandre Texier	25	6-1	201	Left	St-Martin-d'Heres, Fra.	Trade: Clb 6/28/24	Columbus	78	12	18	30	38
Robert Thomas	25	6-0	218	Right	Aurora, Ont.	20th overall (2017)	St. Louis	82	26	60	86	48

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Pavel Buchnevich	29	6-1	196	Left	Cherepovets, Rus.	Trade: NYR 7/23/21	St. Louis	80	27	36	63	48
Ondrej Kos	18	6-2	167	Left	Kurim, Cze.	81st overall (2024)	Koovee (Fin.2)	14	3	2	5	8
Mackenzie MacEachern	30	6-2	193	Left	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Springfield (AHL)	34	6	13	19	14
Hugh McGing	26	5-8	176	Left	Chicago, Ill.	138th overall (2018)	Springfield (AHL)	51	8	31	39	40
Jake Neighbours	22	6-0	201	Left	Calgary, Alta.	26th overall (2020)	St. Louis	77	27	11	38	21
Juraj Pekarcik	19	6-1	183	Left	Trstena, Svk.	76th overall (2023)	Dubuque (USHL)	43	9	50	59	22
Brandon Saad	31	6-1	215	Left	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Free Agent: signed 7/29/21	St. Louis	82	26	16	42	20
Nathan Walker	30	5-9	187	Left	Cardiff, Gbr.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	St. Louis	45	7	6	13	18

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Mathieu Joseph	27	6-1	186	Left	Laval, Que.	Trade: Ott 7/2/24	Ottawa	72	11	24	35	51
Kasperi Kapanen	28	6-1	194	Right	Kuopio, Fin.	Waivers: Pit 2/25/23	St. Louis	73	6	16	22	14
Mathias Laferriere	24	6-2	188	Right	Montreal, Que.	169th overall (2018)	Springfield (AHL)	68	7	18	25	20
Simon Robertsson	21	6-0	190	Left	Pitea, Swe.	71st overall (2021)	Skelleftea (Swe.)	27	2	2	4	12
Jimmy Snuggerud	20	6-1	186	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	23rd overall (2022)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	21	13	34	42
Nikita Susuyev	19	6-0	172	Left	Ussuriysk, Rus.	202nd overall (2023)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	40	3	3	6	6
Marcus Sylvegard	25	6-0	190	Right	Gessie, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/30/24	Vaxjo (Swe.)	51	23	18	41	10
Alexey Toropchenko	25	6-6	222	Left	Moscow, Rus.	113th overall (2017)	St. Louis	82	14	7	21	30
Ivan Vorobyov	22	5-11	156	Right	Surgut, Rus.	198th overall (2021)	Vityaz Moscow Region (KHL)	33	11	5	16	12

SAN JOSE SHARKS

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BY CURTIS PASHELKA

THE 2023-24 SHARKS MIGHT have been the worst team in the NHL's salary-cap era. Not only did San Jose trade the previous season's leading point-producer (Erik Karlsson) and goal-scorer (Timo Meier), but captain Logan Couture missed 76 games with a groin injury and Tomas Hertl was dealt to Vegas at the deadline.

With a thin roster, the Sharks finished last in the NHL in goals against (3.98 per game) and goal differential (minus-146) and second-last in goals scored (2.20 per game). Feeling the team needed a new voice after finishing with a record of 19-54-9, GM Mike Grier fired David Quinn, who went 41-98-25 in two years in San Jose.

The Sharks' total teardown, though, appears to be over. After winning the draft lottery and selecting center Macklin Celebrini, a potential franchise player, with the No. 1 pick in June, optimism has returned to the team's fan base.

OFFENSE

Projected to play significant minutes as a rookie, perhaps even as the Sharks' No. 1 center at some point this season, Celebrini figures to play an integral role, as could fellow top prospect Will Smith. But the Sharks need returning veterans such as Couture and Mikael Granlund and free-agent additions Tyler Toffoli and Alexander Wennberg to support Celebrini and Smith. Toffoli, who has scored a combined 67 goals over the past two seasons, could be a fit on Celebrini's line. Grier is hopeful Couture will be ready in the fall and that Fabian Zetterlund and William Eklund can continue their upward trajectories. Zetterlund scored a team-high 24 goals, and Eklund had 45 points in 80 games in his first full NHL season.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
19-54-9 (.287)

OVERTIME
4-4

SHOOTOUT
1-5

OVERALL
32nd

OFFENSE
2.20 GPG (31st)

DEFENSE
3.98 GAA (32nd)

POWER PLAY
20.2% (21st)

PENALTY KILL
75.4% (28th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.21 (31st)

EXPECTED GA/60
3.07 (32nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Granlund (20:58)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Ferraro (22:52)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Ryan Warsofsky

GM
Mike Grier

ARENA
SAP Center

CAPACITY
17,562

AHL AFFILIATE
San Jose Barracuda

ECHL AFFILIATE
Wichita Thunder

PLAYOFF RECORD
0-0 (since 2020)

STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS

DEFENSE

One of the greatest challenges facing new coach Ryan Warsofsky is fixing the Sharks' porous defense, which he co-ordinated during the past two seasons. In 2023-24, San Jose allowed a league-high 226 goals during 5-on-5 play. Warsofsky, the youngest coach in the NHL at 36, promises a less passive approach to defending now that he's calling the shots. The Sharks made two notable personnel changes: they acquired Jake Walman (and a 2024 second-round pick) from Detroit and sent Kyle Burroughs to Los Angeles for left winger Carl Grundstrom. Walman chips in offense, can play top-pair minutes and joins Mario Ferraro, Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Henry Thrun on the left side. The right-shot defensemen include Jan Rutta, Matt Benning and Ty Emberson. Left-shot Shakir Mukhamadullin will also vie for a roster spot.

GOALTENDING

Mackenzie Blackwood remains the Sharks' No. 1 goalie after posting a respectable (relatively speaking) .899 save percentage last season. His backup will be Vitek Vanecek, who needed surgery after missing the final two months of 2023-24 with a lower-body injury. Vanecek hopes to regain the form he showed in 2022-23, when he had 33 wins and a .911 save percentage in 52 games for New Jersey. Magnus Chrona and Georgi Romanov are the depth options in the AHL.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Additions such as Toffoli, Celebrini, Wennberg, Smith and a healthy Couture should bolster a power play that ranked 21st in the NHL at 20.2 percent last season when Eklund and Zetterlund combined for 14 PP goals. The Sharks could go with five forwards on the first unit, or they could have Walman act as the quarterback. San Jose ranked 28th on the penalty kill last year (75.4 percent) but has brought in some PK help in Wennberg, Walman, Barclay Goodrow and Ty Dellandrea.

INTANGIBLES

The Sharks' biggest task is not just winning more games but also creating an environment in which their top prospects can properly develop despite what will likely be another trying year. Grier feels he's added players, such as Cup-winning vets Toffoli and Goodrow, who will help establish a tough-to-play-against identity. Warsofsky must get everyone on the same page despite the continued roster churn.

ROOKIES

Celebrini and Smith are sure bets to make the roster and, perhaps, contend for the Calder Trophy. On defense, Mukhamadullin might be able to earn an NHL job or at least be in a position to be the first call-up from the AHL when an injury occurs.

X-FACTOR

The Sharks have some added firepower but need to cut back on goals against, particularly at even strength, to have a chance at improving. A healthy Couture and stable goaltending will help the Sharks defy oddsmakers, who have Team Teal finishing in the cellar again.

THE BRASS

Owner Hasso Plattner, 80, pops in and out of public view. He's entrusted Grier, now in his third season, to orchestrate the rebuild. The GM continues to take a methodical approach and isn't making any declarations about when the next playoff appearance might happen.

CUP ODDS

100/1

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. William Eklund	1. Logan Couture	1. Tyler Toffoli
2. Mikael Granlund	2. Alexander Wennberg	2. Fabian Zetterlund
3. Carl Grundstrom	3. Macklin Celebrini	3. Will Smith
4. Barclay Goodrow	4. Nico Sturm	4. Luke Kunin
5. Klim Kostin	5. Ty Dellandrea	5. Thomas Bordeleau

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mario Ferraro	6. Marc-Edouard Vlasic	1. Mackenzie Blackwood
2. Jake Walman	7. Ty Emberson	2. Vitek Vanecek
3. Jan Rutta	8. Shakir Mukhamadullin	3. Magnus Chrona
4. Matt Benning	9. Jack Thompson	
5. Henry Thrun	10. Jimmy Schuldt	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Mike Hoffman, LW; Kyle. Burroughs, D; Alexander Barabanov, LW; Filip Zadina, RW; Calen Addison, D; Ryan Carpenter, C; Kevin Labanc, RW; Jacob MacDonald, D; Jack Studnicka, C

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

MACKLIN CELEBRINI

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Macklin Celebrini
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Boston University (HE)
Freshman dynamo showed supreme smarts en route to Hobey Baker. Sharks are excited.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Will Smith
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
NCAA's leading scorer is going pro. Two-way game needs work but incredible offensive gifts.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

3. Sam Dickinson
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 London (OHL)
Defense-first blueliner is deceptively strong puckhandler. More physicality would be welcome.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

4. Shakir Mukhamadullin
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 San Jose (AHL)
Smooth skater plays calm and controlled two-way game. He'll benefit from learning to use size.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. David Edstrom
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Frolunda (Swe.)
Plays with responsibility beyond his years and continues to add offense. Great hockey sense.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Igor Chernyshov
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Dynamo Moscow (KHL)
Pairs skill with willingness to drive the net. Output in junior hasn't yet translated to pro game.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

7. Filip Bystedt
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Linkoping (Swe.)
Loan to Sweden led to dominant late-season AHL debut. High ceiling and continues improving.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Quentin Musty
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Sudbury (OHL)
Ability to take over games with instincts and skill. Consistency is key to unlocking potential.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Kasper Halttunen
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 London (OHL)
Shoots like NHL sniper and has good size. Skating needs attention to excel at next level.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Leo Sahlin Wallenius
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)
Has jets and plays at accelerated pace. Sometimes tries home-run play when a safe pass will do.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

60

57 Toffoli
57 Eklund
57 Granlund

52 Celebrini

49 Smith
47 Couture

40

40 Zetterlund

32 Bordeleau
32 Dellandrea

29 Wennberg
28 Goodrow

23 Grundstrom

20

21 Kostin Walman 21

19 Kunin
18 Sturm Rutta 18
Ferraro 17

Thrun 14
Benning 14
Vlasic 13
Emberson 13

0

SCHEDULE

Thu, Oct 10	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Oct 18	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 20	vs Colorado	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Anaheim	9:45 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Columbus	10:30 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Minnesota	10:30 PM
Sun, Nov 10	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	vs Detroit	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 20	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Ottawa	10:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Seattle	3:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs Winnipeg	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Colorado	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Edmonton	4:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Vancouver	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Tampa Bay	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs New Jersey	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Fri, Jan 10	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Nashville	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	vs Pittsburgh	10:30 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Montreal	10:30 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Vancouver	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Mon, Feb 24	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Nashville	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Washington	5:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Carolina	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Boston	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Toronto	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs NY Rangers	10:30 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Edmonton	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	vs Calgary	10:30 PM
Wed, Apr 9	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	vs Edmonton	10:30 PM

BRACE HEMMELGARN-USA TODAY SPORTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

SAN JOSE SHARKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Mackenzie Blackwood	27	6-4	225	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Trade: NJ 6/27/23	San Jose	44	10-25-4	3.45	.899
Magnus Chrona	24	6-4	194	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	Trade: TB 4/12/21	San Jose (AHL)	31	6-17-6	3.49	.894
Christian Kirsch	18	6-3	174	Left	Therwil, Sui.	116th overall (2024)	Zug Jr. (Sui.)	30	22-5-1	2.32	-
Yaroslav Korostelyov	19	6-2	168	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	194th overall (2024)	Krasnogorsk/SKA-1946 Jr. (Rus.)	22	12-8-2	2.84	.932
Georgi Romanov	24	6-5	207	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 5/3/23	San Jose (AHL)	29	9-9-8	3.14	.904
Vitek Vanecek	28	6-2	184	Left	Havlickuv Brod, Cze.	Trade: NJ 3/8/24	New Jersey	32	17-9-3	3.18	.890

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Eli Barnett	21	6-6	219	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	195th overall (2022)	Vermont (HE)	24	0	5	5	16
Matt Benning	30	6-1	203	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	San Jose	14	0	2	2	14
Luca Cagnoni	19	5-9	180	Left	Burnaby, B.C.	123rd overall (2023)	Portland (WHL)	65	18	72	90	34
Lucas Carlsson	27	6-0	192	Left	Gavle, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Charlotte (AHL)	52	15	24	39	54
Sam Dickinson	18	6-3	199	Left	Toronto, Ont.	11th overall (2024)	London (OHL)	68	18	52	70	30
Ty Emberson	24	6-2	193	Right	Eau Claire, Wis.	Waivers: NYR 9/30/23	San Jose	30	1	9	10	6
Mario Ferraro	26	6-0	209	Left	Toronto, Ont.	49th overall (2017)	San Jose	78	3	18	21	36
Michael Fisher	20	6-2	193	Right	Westborough, Mass.	76th overall (2022)	Northeastern (HE)	29	1	1	2	14
Jake Furlong	20	6-1	189	Left	Labrador City, Nfld.	140th overall (2022)	Halifax (QMJHL)	56	3	27	30	48
Artem Guryev	21	6-4	225	Left	Moscow, Rus.	135th overall (2021)	San Jose (AHL)	31	2	2	4	81
Mattias Havelid	20	5-9	165	Right	Taby, Swe.	45th overall (2022)	Linkoping (Swe.)	43	2	10	12	8
Evgenii Kashnikov	21	6-4	200	Left	Moscow, Rus.	199th overall (2021)	Nizhnekamsk (KHL)	65	2	4	6	45
Axel Landen	19	6-1	185	Right	Jonkoping, Swe.	130th overall (2023)	HV71 (Swe.)	35	0	0	0	8
Gannon Laroque	21	6-2	200	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	103rd overall (2021)	San Jose (AHL)	9	1	1	2	8
Nate Misskey	19	6-3	205	Right	Melfort, Sask.	143rd overall (2024)	Victoria (WHL)	44	7	27	34	54
Shakir Mukhamadullin	22	6-4	178	Left	Ufa, Rus.	Trade: NJ 2/26/23	San Jose (AHL)	55	7	27	34	24
Eric Pohlkamp	20	5-10	201	Right	Baxter, Minn.	132nd overall (2023)	Bemidji State (CCHA)	32	11	13	24	18
Valtteri Pulli	23	6-6	209	Left	Turku, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/3/23	San Jose (AHL)	59	3	7	10	20
Colton Roberts	18	6-4	192	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	131st overall (2024)	Vancouver (WHL)	62	7	20	27	49
Jan Rutta	34	6-3	204	Right	Pisek, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	San Jose	69	5	14	19	38
Leo Sahlin Wallenius	18	6-0	176	Left	Skovde, Swe.	53rd overall (2024)	Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)	43	11	31	42	38
Jimmy Schuldt	29	6-1	203	Left	Minnetonka, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	68	5	19	24	42
Jack Thompson	22	6-1	189	Right	Courtice, Ont.	Trade: TB 3/7/24	Syracuse/San Jose (AHL)	62	6	35	41	16
Henry Thrun	23	6-2	190	Left	Southborough, Mass.	Trade: Ana 2/28/23	San Jose	51	3	8	11	16
Marc-Edouard Vlasic	37	6-1	205	Left	Montreal, Que.	35th overall (2005)	San Jose	57	6	6	12	26
Jake Walman	28	6-1	218	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Det 6/25/24	Detroit	63	12	9	21	44

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Thomas Bordeleau	22	5-10	175	Left	Houston, Texas	38th overall (2020)	San Jose (AHL)	35	11	14	25	26
Filip Bystedt	20	6-2	187	Left	Norrkoping, Swe.	27th overall (2022)	Linkoping (Swe.)	47	8	9	17	2
Macklin Celebrini	18	6-0	190	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	1st overall (2024)	Boston University (HE)	38	32	32	64	18
Sasha Chmelevski	25	6-0	188	Right	Huntington Beach, Calif.	185th overall (2017)	Ufa (KHL)	67	27	29	56	48
Logan Couture	35	6-1	206	Left	Guelph, Ont.	9th overall (2007)	San Jose	6	0	1	1	4
Ty Dellandrea	24	6-2	190	Right	Port Perry, Ont.	Trade: Dal 6/19/24	Dallas	42	2	7	9	23
David Edstrom	19	6-3	185	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: Veg 3/8/24	Frolunda (Swe.)	44	7	12	19	8
Barclay Goodrow	31	6-2	209	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Waivers: NYR 6/19/24	NY Rangers	80	4	8	12	78
Mikael Granlund	32	5-10	185	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: Nsh 3/1/23	San Jose	69	12	48	60	32
Theo Jacobsson	21	5-10	167	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	177th overall (2021)	Vastervik (Swe.2)	32	8	16	24	2
David Klee	19	6-3	188	Left	Castle Rock, Colo.	196th overall (2023)	Muskegon (USHL)	62	15	25	40	99
Klim Kostin	25	6-4	232	Left	Penza, Rus.	Trade: Det 3/8/24	Detroit/San Jose	52	8	6	14	53
Luke Kunin	26	6-0	197	Right	Chesterfield, Mo.	Trade: Nsh 7/8/22	San Jose	77	11	7	18	83
Reese Laubach	20	5-11	167	Right	San Jose, Calif.	217th overall (2022)	Penn State (Big Ten)	35	10	12	22	48
Cameron Lund	20	6-1	185	Right	Bridgewater, Mass.	34th overall (2022)	Northeastern (HE)	35	11	19	30	22
Andrew Poturalski	30	5-10	187	Right	Williamsville, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Coachella Valley (AHL)	60	15	36	51	30
Tristen Robins	22	5-10	176	Right	London, Gbr.	56th overall (2020)	San Jose (AHL)	42	7	11	18	12
Will Smith	19	6-0	181	Right	Boston, Mass.	4th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	41	25	46	71	14
Yegor Spiridonov	23	6-2	192	Right	Chelyabinsk, Rus.	108th overall (2019)	Novosibirsk/Sochi (KHL)	32	1	0	1	8
Nico Sturm	29	6-3	209	Left	Augsburg, Ger.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	San Jose	63	5	8	13	12
Brandon Svoboda	19	6-3	205	Right	Pittsburgh, PA.	71st overall (2023)	Youngstown/Fargo (USHL)	40	12	8	20	18
Alex Wennberg	30	6-2	190	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Seattle/NY Rangers	79	10	20	30	14
Alex Young	23	5-11	170	Right	Calgary, Alta.	196th overall (2020)	Arizona State (NCAA)	37	6	3	9	8

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Egor Afanasyev	23	6-4	211	Left	Tver, Rus.	Trade: Nsh 6/23/24	Milwaukee (AHL)	56	27	27	54	60
Igor Chernyshov	18	6-3	204	Right	Penza, Rus.	33rd overall (2024)	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	34	3	1	4	2
William Eklund	21	5-11	181	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	7th overall (2021)	San Jose	80	16	29	45	30
Danil Gushchin	22	5-8	165	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	76th overall (2020)	San Jose (AHL)	56	20	34	54	24
Quentin Musty	19	6-2	200	Left	Hamburg, N.Y.	26th overall (2023)	Sudbury (OHL)	53	43	59	102	72
Fabian Zetterlund	25	5-11	220	Right	Karlstad, Swe.	Trade: NJ 2/26/23	San Jose	82	24	20	44	33

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Justin Bailey	29	6-4	214	Right	Buffalo, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 11/27/23	San Jose	59	5	9	14	6
Ethan Cardwell	22	5-11	180	Right	Oshawa, Ont.	121st overall (2021)	San Jose (AHL)	71	23	20	43	52
Brandon Coe	22	6-4	188	Right	Toronto, Ont.	98th overall (2020)	San Jose (AHL)	57	12	5	17	43
Collin Graf	22	6-1	194	Right	Lincoln, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 4/4/24	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	34	22	27	49	4
Carl Grundstrom	26	6-0	200	Left	Umea, Swe.	Trade: LA 6/27/24	Los Angeles	50	8	4	12	12
Kasper Halttunen	19	6-3	207	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	36th overall (2023)	London (OHL)	57	32	29	61	61
Martin Kaut	24	6-2	190	Right	Brno, Cze.	Trade: Col 1/25/23	Pardubice (Cze.)	30	14	15	29	12
Joey Muldowney	20	5-11	155	Right	Lakeview, N.Y.	172nd overall (2022)	Connecticut (HE)	35	5	9	14	12
Yegor Rimashevskiy	19	6-2	197	Left	Zhlobin, Blr.	203rd overall (2023)	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	45	5	9	14	4
Mitchell Russell	23	6-0	194	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 5/20/22	Wichita (ECHL)	35	9	13	22	10
Scott Sabourin	32	6-4	207	Right	Orleans, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	San Jose (AHL)	59	18	9	27	192
Givani Smith	26	6-2	214	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	San Jose	36	1	3	4	40
Timofey Spitserov	22	5-11	174	Left	Moscow, Rus.	210th overall (2020)	Vermont (HE)	35	7	7	14	6
Tyler Toffoli	32	6-0	203	Right	Scarborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	New Jersey/Winnipeg	79	33	22	55	14
Carson Wetsch	18	6-2	190	Right	North Vancouver, B.C.	82nd overall (2024)	Calgary (WHL)	67	25	25	50	89

SEATTLE KRAKEN

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
34-35-13 (.494)

OVERTIME
3-9

SHOOTOUT
3-4

OVERALL
25th

OFFENSE
2.61 GPG (29th)

DEFENSE
2.83 GAA (9th)

POWER PLAY
20.7% (17th)

PENALTY KILL
78.8% (20th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.43 (24th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.37 (8th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Wennberg (18:49)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
V. Dunn (23:05)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Dan Bylsma

GM
Ron Francis

ARENA
Climate Pledge Arena

CAPACITY
17,151

AHL AFFILIATE
Coachella Valley Firebirds

ECHL AFFILIATE
Kansas City Mavericks

PLAYOFF RECORD
7-7 (since 2020)

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY GEOFF BAKER

AFTER MISSING THE PLAYOFFS in 2023-24 thanks to a 19-point year-over-year decline, the Kraken embarked on an ambitious summer to change the dynamic and how they're perceived in a crowded Seattle sports market. They fired coach Dave Hakstol and replaced him with AHL counterpart Dan Bylsma. They ditched their regional sports network partner in favor of producing their own "free" broadcasts. And they committed $94 million to two players in the opening hours of free agency. That's revived interest in a team that's fallen short of envisioned market inroads in its first three seasons.

As for on-ice moves, the additions of defenseman Brandon Montour and center Chandler Stephenson should make the Kraken instantly more competitive while facilitating the progress of young center Matty Beniers and prospects such as defenseman Ryker Evans and center Shane Wright. There is renewed hope in Seattle.

OFFENSE

A sophomore slump by Beniers and injuries to right winger Andre Burakovsky limited the Kraken to a fourth-worst 2.61 goals per game. Adding Stephenson affords the option of dropping Beniers to second-line duty, where he won't always face the opponents' best players. It – along with Wright breaking into the NHL full-time – also improves a notable weakness at center after the March trade of Alexander Wennberg. Team MVP Jared McCann has led the club in scoring all three seasons and can now slide back into his customary spot at left wing. Montour's arrival along with Vince Dunn and the promising Evans gives Seattle's blueline a dangerous offensive punch.

DEFENSE

Montour's addition more than offsets the UFA departure of Justin Schultz and maintains a lefty-righty balance on all three pairings. Seattle was already one of the tougher defensive teams to face, allowing the ninth-fewest goals per game at 2.83, and Montour makes a group with Dunn, Adam Larsson, Jamie Oleksiak and the aggressive Will Borgen even more physical. The puck-moving defense corps will be expected to ignite the offense, and all three pairings can now do that with power-play candidates Dunn, Montour and Evans. Dunn had the second-most points on the team in 2022-23 and third-most last season despite missing most of the final six weeks with a neck injury.

GOALTENDING

Joey Daccord emerged as the new No. 1 last season during Philipp Grubauer's injuries, though they'll battle for that mantle in training camp and likely into the opening month. Daccord's stellar play allowed the Kraken to bid adieu to UFA Chris Driedger. Still, only midway through a six-year, $35.4-million deal, Grubauer showed improvement in the latter part of 2023-24 after his injuries were afforded time to heal. If competition with Daccord elevates Grubauer's play to that previously shown in Colorado, this has the makings of a good tandem.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play was a perpetual liability, leading to the departure of assistant coach Paul McFarland. Longtime NHL assistant Bob Woods has been brought in to revive it, helped by Jessica Campbell, who'd previously worked with the Kraken's AHL Coachella Valley affiliate on their highly productive power play. Montour's addition will give the team two well-quarterbacked PP units, while Stephenson will again take pressure off Beniers. Stephenson and Montour will also help a penalty kill that's improved under assistant Dave Lowry the past two seasons.

INTANGIBLES

The Kraken gave two-fisted Coachella Valley winger John Hayden a one-way contract with a shot at fourth-line duty. His addition alongside Montour will help the Kraken avoid getting pushed around as often by opponents. Right winger Jordan Eberle signed a two-year extension and could become the franchise's first captain since Mark Giordano was traded in March 2022.

CUP ODDS

45/1

ROOKIES

While not technically a rookie, 2022 No. 4 overall pick Wright is ready for full-time NHL action. And Evans, who saw sporadic duty last season, has a shot at either the second or third defense pairing.

X-FACTOR

Rebounds by Beniers and Burakovsky would replace much of the missing offense. Still, it could be moot if Daccord suffers a regression after his breakout season. But if he proves he's more than a three-month mirage, Seattle might remind folks why it was a win away from the Western Conference final two years ago.

THE BRASS

GM Ron Francis jettisoned Hakstol in favor of the more "player-friendly" Bylsma, who is close to the team's future core. Francis must show ownership he can build for the present as well as the future in a sports market that's been lukewarm to his product thus far.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jared McCann	1. Chandler Stephenson	1. Jordan Eberle
2. Jaden Schwartz	2. Matty Beniers	2. Oliver Bjorkstrand
3. Brandon Tanev	3. Yanni Gourde	3. Andre Burakovsky
4. Tye Kartye	4. Shane Wright	4. Eeli Tolvanen
5. Mitchell Stephens	5. Ben Meyers	5. John Hayden

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Vince Dunn	6. Ryker Evans	1. Joey Daccord
2. Brandon Montour	7. Josh Mahura	2. Philipp Grubauer
3. Adam Larsson	8. Cale Fleury	3. Ales Stezka
4. Jamie Oleksiak	9. Gustav Olofsson	
5. Will Borgen	10. Max Lajoie	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Justin Schultz, D; Brian Dumoulin, D; Kailer Yamamoto, RW; Tomas Tatar, LW; Chris Driedger, G

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Shane Wright
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Patience paid off in rookie AHL season. He's bound for NHL with eyes on a middle-six spot.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Berkly Catton
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Spokane (WHL)
Dominant WHL campaign for solid two-way center. Not big. Not exceptionally fast. But high IQ.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Ryker Evans
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Split time between AHL and NHL, and he didn't look out of place in latter. Offensive bent to game.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Julius Miettinen
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Everett (WHL)
Smooth transition to major junior. He knows how to find soft spots and attack dangerous areas.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

5. Eduard Sale
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Kitchener (OHL)
Tall and slight but uses wingspan to create offense. Deft passing leads to high-end playmaking.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Jani Nyman
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Ilves (Fin.)
Settled into pro circuit and used his bulk to shield puck, drive the net and unleash his heavy shot.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Carson Rehkopf
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Kitchener (OHL)
Natural-born finisher with a hard, accurate shot. His 52 goals ranked second in the OHL.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Jagger Firkus
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Moose Jaw (WHL)
Led WHL with 126 points and now headed to AHL. Lacks size, but he's tenacious on the attack.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Ryan Winterton
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Coachella Valley (AHL)
Reliable two-way game earned him an NHL audition in first pro season. Good scoring instincts.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. Lukas Dragicevic
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Tri-City (WHL)
Defense starting to round into form and catch up with offensive ability. Still needs seasoning.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

64 Beniers

60 59 Stephenson

Dunn 56

54 McCann
52 Bjorkstrand

44 Eberle

Montour 41

40 40 Schwartz
40 Tolvanen
40 Burakovsky
38 Gourde

35 Wright

29 Kartye

Larsson 27

26 Tanev

Borgen 23

20

Oleksiak 15
Evans 14
Mahura 13

0

SCHEDULE

Tue, Oct 8	vs St. Louis	4:30 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Colorado	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ Boston	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Nov 8	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs NY Islanders	4:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ San Jose	3:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 6	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Boston	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Tampa Bay	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Dec 21	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Vancouver	4:00 PM
Mon, Dec 30	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Buffalo	4:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	@ Detroit	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Buffalo	4:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs Calgary	9:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Philadelphia	12:30 PM
Sun, Mar 9	@ Washington	3:30 PM
Wed, Mar 12	vs Montreal	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 14	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	vs Winnipeg	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 19	@ Minnesota	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs Dallas	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 31	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM

ANDY ABEYTA/THE DESERT SUN

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

SEATTLE KRAKEN

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Joey Daccord	28	6-2	201	Left	Boston, Mass.	Expansion: Ott 7/21/21	Seattle	50	19-18-11	2.46	.916
Philipp Grubauer	32	6-1	188	Left	Rosenheim, Ger.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Seattle	36	14-16-2	2.85	.899
Niklas Kokko	20	6-3	184	Left	Oulu, Fin.	58th overall (2022)	Karpat/Pelicans (Fin.)	23	11-5-4	1.86	.917
Victor Ostman	23	6-4	205	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/3/24	Maine (HE)	21	13-6-1	2.80	.892
Kim Saarinen	18	6-4	169	Left	Hameenlinna, Fin.	88th overall (2024)	HPK Jr. (Fin.)	23	14-5-0	2.41	.917
Ales Stezka	27	6-4	190	Left	Liberec, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/2/23	Coachella Valley (AHL)	27	18-6-2	2.48	.914
Visa Vedenpaa	19	6-2	170	Left	Oulu, Fin.	168th overall (2023)	Karpat Jr. (Fin.)	17	12-5-0	2.25	.900
Semyon Vyazovoi	21	6-2	169	Left	Ufa, Rus.	163rd overall (2021)	Neftekamsk (Rus.2)	37	20-13-4	2.54	.929
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Alexis Bernier	18	6-1	189	Right	St-Hyacinthe, Que.	73rd overall (2024)	Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)	67	4	27	31	56
Will Borgen	27	6-3	204	Right	Moorhead, Minn.	Expansion: Buf 7/21/21	Seattle	82	3	22	25	65
Nikolas Brouillard	29	5-10	172	Left	St-Hyacinthe, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Hartford (AHL)	70	5	31	36	137
Lukas Dragicevic	19	6-1	190	Right	Richmond, B.C.	57th overall (2023)	Tri-City (WHL)	66	14	36	50	52
Vince Dunn	27	6-0	200	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Expansion: StL 7/21/21	Seattle	59	11	35	46	78
Ryker Evans	22	5-11	189	Left	Calgary, Alta.	35th overall (2021)	Seattle	36	1	8	9	20
Jakub Fibigr	18	6-0	171	Left	Sternberk, Cze.	202nd overall (2024)	Mississauga (OHL)	61	7	36	43	35
Cale Fleury	25	6-1	204	Right	Carlyle, Sask.	Expansion: Mtl 7/21/21	Coachella Valley (AHL)	65	7	29	36	20
Kaden Hammell	19	6-1	173	Right	Langley, B.C.	148th overall (2023)	Everett (WHL)	52	5	20	25	56
Tyson Jugnauth	20	5-11	155	Left	Toronto, Ont.	100th overall (2022)	Portland (WHL)	41	7	34	41	26
Maxime Lajoie	26	6-1	191	Left	Quebec City, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto (AHL)	51	4	20	24	31
Adam Larsson	31	6-3	209	Right	Skelleftea, Swe.	Expansion: Edm 7/21/21	Seattle	81	4	14	18	55
Josh Mahura	26	6-0	193	Left	St. Albert, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Florida	30	0	9	9	20
Brandon Montour	30	6-0	199	Right	Brantford, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Florida	66	8	25	33	46
Ty Nelson	20	5-9	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	68th overall (2022)	North Bay (OHL)	54	16	36	52	50
Jamie Oleksiak	31	6-7	257	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Expansion: Dal 7/21/21	Seattle	82	2	13	15	37
Gustav Olofsson	29	6-2	199	Left	Boras, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 8/25/21	Coachella Valley (AHL)	51	1	11	12	18
Ville Ottavainen	22	6-5	210	Right	Oulu, Fin.	99th overall (2021)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	70	8	26	34	30
Caden Price	19	6-1	185	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	84th overall (2023)	Kelowna (WHL)	62	13	42	55	48
Peetro Seppala	24	6-2	192	Left	Kouvola, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 5/7/22	Coachella Valley (AHL)	49	1	10	11	14
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Matty Beniers	21	6-2	178	Left	Hingham, Mass.	2nd overall (2021)	Seattle	77	15	22	37	20
Berkly Catton	18	5-10	170	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	8th overall (2024)	Spokane (WHL)	68	54	62	116	41
Oscar Fisker Molgaard	19	6-0	168	Left	Hjorring, Den.	52nd overall (2023)	HV71 (Swe.)	50	9	12	21	6
Zeb Forsfjall	19	5-9	167	Left	Skelleftea, Swe.	180th overall (2023)	Skelleftea (Swe.)	41	3	2	5	8
Yanni Gourde	32	5-9	174	Left	St-Narcisse, Que.	Expansion: TB 7/21/21	Seattle	80	11	22	33	62
David Goyette	20	5-10	172	Left	St-Jerome, Que.	61st overall (2022)	Sudbury (OHL)	68	40	77	117	29
Barrett Hall	20	6-1	167	Left	Edina, Minn.	164th overall (2022)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	33	8	8	16	16
John Hayden	29	6-3	223	Right	Chicago, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Coachella Valley (AHL)	65	15	11	26	73
Luke Henman	24	6-0	152	Left	Dartmouth, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 5/13/21	Coachella Valley (AHL)	45	7	7	14	29
Ollie Josephson	18	6-0	185	Left	Victoria, B.C.	105th overall (2024)	Red Deer (WHL)	68	12	35	47	25
Andrei Loshko	19	6-1	173	Left	Zhlobin, Blr.	116th overall (2023)	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)	64	28	39	67	14
Ben MacDonald	20	5-11	165	Left	Boston, Mass.	91st overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	32	5	10	15	36
Ben Meyers	25	5-11	194	Left	Delano, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Colorado (AHL)	32	11	14	25	2
Julius Miettinen	18	6-3	205	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	40th overall (2024)	Everett (WHL)	66	31	36	67	32
Logan Morrison	22	6-0	180	Right	Guelph, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 4/11/23	Coachella Valley (AHL)	64	16	25	41	4
Tucker Robertson	21	5-11	188	Right	Toronto, Ont.	123rd overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	39	6	4	10	16
Jaden Schwartz	32	5-10	185	Left	Wilcox, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Seattle	62	13	17	30	24
Mitchell Stephens	27	6-0	203	Right	Peterborough, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Laval (AHL)	49	13	22	35	16
Chandler Stephenson	30	6-0	209	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vegas	75	16	35	51	25
Nathan Villeneuve	18	5-11	199	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	63rd overall (2024)	Sudbury (OHL)	56	23	27	50	58
Ryan Winterton	21	6-2	175	Right	Markham, Ont.	67th overall (2021)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	58	22	13	35	23
Shane Wright	20	6-0	192	Right	Burlington, Ont.	4th overall (2022)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	59	22	25	47	18
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Brandon Biro	26	5-11	170	Left	Sherwood Park, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Rochester (AHL)	59	16	27	43	28
Andre Burakovsky	29	6-3	209	Left	Klagenfurt, Aut.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Seattle	49	7	9	16	14
Clarke Caswell	18	5-11	170	Left	Brandon, Man.	141st overall (2024)	Swift Current (WHL)	68	26	51	77	20
Justin Janicke	21	5-11	185	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	195th overall (2021)	Notre Dame (Big Ten)	36	4	12	16	47
Tye Kartye	23	5-11	202	Left	Kingston, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/22	Seattle	77	11	9	20	37
Jared McCann	28	6-1	191	Left	Stratford, Ont.	Expansion: Tor 7/21/21	Seattle	80	29	33	62	31
Max McCormick	32	5-11	188	Left	De Pere, Wis.	Free Agent: signed 9/29/21	Coachella Valley (AHL)	68	32	28	60	61
Carson Rehkopf	19	6-2	193	Left	Barrie, Ont.	50th overall (2023)	Kitchener (OHL)	60	52	43	95	45
Lleyton Roed	22	6-0	179	Left	White Bear Lake, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/27/24	Bemidji State (CCHA)	38	14	16	30	16
Eduard Sale	19	6-2	174	Left	Brno, Cze.	20th overall (2023)	Barrie/Kitchener (OHL)	49	15	23	38	8
Brandon Tanev	32	6-0	189	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Expansion: Pit 7/21/21	Seattle	66	7	9	16	51
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Oliver Bjorkstrand	29	6-0	175	Right	Herning, Den.	Trade: Clb 7/22/22	Seattle	82	20	39	59	12
Jordan Eberle	34	5-11	190	Right	Regina, Sask.	Expansion: NYI 7/21/21	Seattle	78	17	27	44	17
Jagger Firkus	20	5-10	153	Right	Irma, Alta.	35th overall (2022)	Moose Jaw (WHL)	63	61	65	126	30
Jacob Melanson	21	6-0	207	Right	Halifax, N.S.	131st overall (2021)	Coachella Valley (AHL)	62	6	12	18	87
Jani Nyman	20	6-2	212	Left	Valkeakoski, Fin.	49th overall (2022)	Ilves (Fin.)	48	26	17	43	2
Eeli Tolvanen	25	5-10	191	Left	Vihti, Fin.	Waivers: Nsh 12/12/22	Seattle	81	16	25	41	24
Zaccharya Wisdom	20	6-0	175	Right	Toronto, Ont.	212th overall (2023)	Colorado College (NCHC)	33	10	10	20	22

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

NIKITA KUCHEROV

BY ERIK ERLENDSSON

THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING marked the end of an era in the off-season. Steven Stamkos, the face of the franchise for nearly two decades, parted ways with the organization that drafted him No. 1 overall in 2008 – and the one he captained for a decade – to sign with Nashville. Looking to get out of the first round for the first time since 2022, Tampa Bay's roster will look drastically different this season. Gone, too, is marquee defenseman Mikhail Sergachev, who was sent to Utah in a draft-day deal.

While those moves made headlines, it was the acquisition of left winger Jake Guentzel that made the biggest splash. With three consecutive 30-goal seasons and seven straight 20-goal campaigns, Guentzel was the biggest part of Tampa Bay's off-season overhaul. The Bolts also brought back Ryan McDonagh to help shore up a back end that had lost some depth. Defenseman J.J. Moser and center Conor Geekie, the No. 11 pick in 2022, arrived as part of the Sergachev trade. Tampa Bay also signed veteran forwards Zemgus Girgensons and Cam Atkinson.

OFFENSE

Nikita Kucherov enjoyed a season for the ages with a league-high 144 points, and he became the fifth player – and first winger – to record 100 assists in a season. (Connor McDavid became the fourth NHLer to do so just two days earlier). The scoring revolves around Kucherov and a top line that includes 50-goal scorer Brayden Point and presumably Guentzel. But the Lightning will need depth scoring to take some pressure off the top line. Anthony Cirelli is coming off a career-high in goals (20) and points

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
45-29-8 (.598)

OVERTIME
5-7

SHOOTOUT
3-1

OVERALL
13th

OFFENSE
3.51 GPG (5th)

DEFENSE
3.26 GAA (22nd)

POWER PLAY
28.6% (1st)

PENALTY KILL
83.3% (5th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.43 (24th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.52 (14th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Kucherov (21:40)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
V. Hedman (24:48)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jon Cooper

GM
Julien BriseBois

ARENA
Amalie Arena

CAPACITY
19,092

AHL AFFILIATE
Syracuse Crunch

ECHL AFFILIATE
Orlando Solar Bears

PLAYOFF RECORD
49-30 (since 2020)

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

VICTOR HEDMAN

(45), Nick Paul broke through with a career-high 24 goals, and Brandon Hagel scored 26 times on his way to a career-high 75 points.

DEFENSE

When the Lightning won championships, they did so on the strength of their left-side defense. That strength returns with McDonagh coming back after two years in Nashville to join Hedman and the newly acquired Moser, who had a top-four role in Arizona the past two seasons. Expect Erik Cernak to be rejuvenated playing with McDonagh again. The two were the team's primary shutdown pair for three seasons. Darren Raddysh returns for his second full season, while the Bolts need a bounce-back showing from Nick Perbix.

GOALTENDING

Andrei Vasilevskiy remains Tampa Bay's best chance to get back to a championship level. When he plays like the world-beating goalie he's been for most of his career, the Lightning are an elite team. Back surgery in training camp last year kept him out for the season's first six weeks, then he wasn't able to find that consistent elite level. After a full off-season of training, the Bolts look to return to contention with a healthy Vasilevskiy.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Tampa Bay had the NHL's best power play last season (28.6 percent), continuing a long run of PP success. With Hedman on the point, Kucherov the quarterback off the half-wall and Point in the middle, the Lightning should still be lethal on the man advantage. But without Stamkos, who tied for third in the NHL last season in PP goals (19), the power play must be reworked. The Bolts will need to find a way to fit in Guentzel on the top unit. Getting McDonagh back on the penalty kill takes some of the responsibility off of Hedman, while Girgensons will step in for the departed Tyler Motte.

INTANGIBLES

One of the Bolts' strengths in recent years has been their leadership, starting with Stamkos. But this year, there will be a void. While leadership isn't just about one player, team captain Stamkos was held in high regard. Will the Lightning leave the captaincy vacant or give the 'C' to Hedman? Either way, the voice in the dressing room will have a different tone.

CUP ODDS

23/1

ROOKIES

Eight rookies made an appearance for Tampa Bay last season. The farm system has taken a hit over the years, but it's not depleted. The Lightning have a blue-chip prospect in Geekie, who will compete for a spot in training camp. Gage Goncalves, Maxim Groshev, Lucas Edmonds and Dylan Duke are also in the mix up front.

X-FACTOR

How long Stamkos' absence hangs over the roster might determine what kind of start the team gets off to – and they need a good start. If the results don't show up on the ice in the early going, it could derail the season quickly. But if they can push past the obvious storyline and show improvement, they'll remain in contention in a competitive Atlantic Division.

THE BRASS

GM Julien BriseBois put his reputation on the line by letting Stamkos walk and trading Sergachev while bringing in Guentzel. After years of massaging the roster, BriseBois went bold to keep the team in the Stanley Cup conversation.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

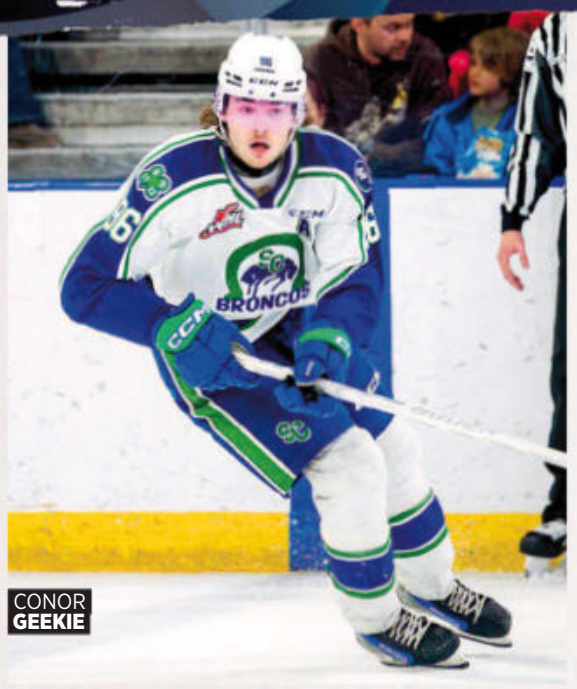
LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jake Guentzel	1. Brayden Point	1. Nikita Kucherov
2. Brandon Hagel	2. Anthony Cirelli	2. Conor Sheary
3. Michael Eyssimont	3. Nick Paul	3. Cam Atkinson
4. Zemgus Girgensons	4. Luke Glendening	4. Mitchell Chaffee
5. Jesse Ylonen	5. Conor Geekie	5. Maxim Groshev

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Victor Hedman	6. Nick Perbix	1. Andrei Vasilevskiy
2. Darren Raddysh	7. Emil Lilleberg	2. Jonas Johansson
3. Ryan McDonagh	8. Maxwell Crozier	3. Matt Tomkins
4. Erik Cernak	9. Derrick Pouliot	
5. J.J. Moser	10. Steven Santini	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Steven Stamkos, C; Mikhail Sergachev, D; Calvin de Haan, D; Haydn Fleury, D; Anthony Duclair, LW; Tyler Motte, C; Tanner Jeannot, LW; Matt Dumba, D; Austin Watson, LW

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Conor Geekie
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Swift Current (WHL)
Big pivot dominated WHL and saw AHL playoff action. Rounding out game will help him reach his peak.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Isaac Howard
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Michigan State (Big Ten)
Showed big-game prowess and excelled at WJC. Pass-first winger exudes confidence with puck.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Maxim Groshev
Pos RW **Age** 22
2023-24 Syracuse (AHL)
Desire to add tools to game earned him greater responsibility in AHL. His upside is apparent.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

4. Ethan Gauthier
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Drummondville (QMJHL)
Big-time shooter uses two-way game to create offensive opportunities. Adding strength is next.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Emil Lilleberg
Pos D **Age** 23
2023-24 Syracuse (AHL)
Half-season in big league prepared him for NHL rigors. Sticks to his physical, reliable game.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. Jack Finley
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Syracuse (AHL)
Thrives when shutting down opponents' best. Low offensive ceiling. A future grind-line type.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Jan Golicic
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Gatineau (QMJHL)
At 6-foot-5, towers over attackers, disrupting with physicality and reach. Could get more mean.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Hagen Burrows
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Minnetonka (USHS)
Top Minnesota high-school senior pairs size with knack for playmaking. Mobility must improve.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

9. Daniil Pylenkov
Pos D **Age** 24
2023-24 Dynamo Moscow (KHL)
Late-blooming seventh-rounder is turning into reliable pro defender. Can play in all situations.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. Gage Goncalves
Pos C **Age** 23
2023-24 Syracuse (AHL)
Playmaking pivot played in AHL All-Star Game. Ticket to NHL is as a defensive bottom-sixer.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	125 Kucherov	
	94 Point	
	84 Guentzel	
80		
	70 Hagel	
		Hedman 63
60		
40	41 Cirelli 38 Paul 36 Sheary	
		Raddysh 28
	27 Eyssimont	McDonagh 27
		Moser 26
	24 Atkinson 24 Geekie	
		Perbix 22
20	18 Girgensons 18 Chaffee	
	14 Glendening 12 Ylonen	Cernak 12
0		

SCHEDULE

Fri, Oct 11	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Ottawa	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 21	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ New Jersey	6:45 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Nov 1	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Nashville	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ Vancouver	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	vs Florida	5:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Montreal	5:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	@ Pittsburgh	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 24	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 9	@ Montreal	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs Seattle	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Washington	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 3	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	vs Boston	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Utah	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 29	vs NY Islanders	2:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 9	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 11	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Buffalo	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM

PHOTO BY SWIFT CURRENT BRONCOS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Hugo Alnefelt	23	6-3	189	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	71st overall (2019)	Syracuse (AHL)	30	14-8-4	2.76	.893
Jonas Johansson	29	6-5	219	Left	Gavle, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Tampa Bay	26	12-7-5	3.37	.890
Harrison Meneghin	20	6-3	176	Left	Surrey, B.C.	206th overall (2024)	Lethbridge (WHL)	53	27-20-5	2.59	.919
Matt Tomkins	30	6-4	191	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 5/10/23	Syracuse (AHL)	29	15-12-2	2.53	.904
Andrei Vasilevskiy	30	6-4	220	Left	Tyumen, Rus.	19th overall (2012)	Tampa Bay	52	30-20-2	2.90	.900

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Declan Carlile	24	6-1	185	Left	Hartland, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 3/16/22	Syracuse (AHL)	61	7	20	27	26
Erik Cernak	27	6-3	230	Right	Kosice, Svk.	Trade: LA 2/26/17	Tampa Bay	69	2	11	13	63
Warren Clark	20	6-2	192	Right	Windsor, Ont.	179th overall (2023)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	31	0	3	3	8
Maxwell Crozier	24	6-1	197	Right	Calgary, Alta.	120th overall (2019)	Syracuse (AHL)	49	4	17	21	43
Alex Gagne	22	6-4	205	Left	Bedford, N.H.	192nd overall (2021)	New Hampshire (HE)	36	1	13	14	24
Dyllan Gill	20	6-2	193	Right	Riverview, N.B.	223rd overall (2022)	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)	12	1	8	9	2
Jan Golicic	18	6-5	190	Left	Jesenice, Svk.	118th overall (2024)	Gatineau (QMJHL)	65	3	26	29	48
Victor Hedman	33	6-7	246	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	2nd overall (2009)	Tampa Bay	78	13	63	76	76
Emil Lilleberg	23	6-2	202	Left	Sarpsborg, Nor.	Free Agent: signed 6/5/23	Tampa Bay	37	0	5	5	16
Ryan McDonagh	35	6-1	215	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	Trade: Nsh 5/21/24	Nashville	74	3	29	32	31
J.J. Moser	24	6-1	173	Left	Biel, Sui.	Trade: Uth 6/29/24	Arizona	80	5	21	26	35
Tobie Paquette-Bisson	27	6-3	194	Left	Rosemere, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Laval (AHL)	69	9	18	27	59
Nick Perbix	26	6-3	202	Right	Elk River, Minn.	169th overall (2017)	Tampa Bay	77	2	22	24	10
Derrick Pouliot	30	6-1	204	Left	Estevan, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Texas (AHL)	64	9	37	46	59
Eamon Powell	22	5-11	165	Right	Marcellus, N.Y.	116th overall (2020)	Boston College (HE)	40	5	33	38	8
Daniil Pylenkov	24	6-1	194	Left	Yegoryevsk, Rus.	196th overall (2021)	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	67	7	22	29	18
Darren Raddysh	28	6-1	195	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Tampa Bay	82	6	27	33	21
Steven Santini	29	6-2	209	Right	Bronxville, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Ontario (AHL)	64	5	15	20	24
Roman Schmidt	21	6-4	217	Right	Midland, Mich.	96th overall (2021)	Kitchener/Kingston (OHL)	47	8	24	32	62

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Anthony Cirelli	27	6-1	190	Left	Etobicoke, Ont.	72nd overall (2015)	Tampa Bay	79	20	25	45	38
Michael Eyssimont	28	6-0	201	Left	Littleton, Colo.	Trade: SJ 3/1/23	Tampa Bay	81	11	14	25	104
Jack Finley	22	6-6	218	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	57th overall (2020)	Syracuse (AHL)	52	13	19	32	29
Conor Geekie	20	6-4	206	Left	Strathclair, Man.	Trade: Uth 6/29/24	Wenatchee/Swift Current (WHL)	55	43	56	99	66
Luke Glendening	35	5-10	190	Right	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Tampa Bay	81	10	1	11	39
Gage Goncalves	23	5-11	188	Left	Mission, B.C.	62nd overall (2020)	Syracuse (AHL)	69	13	45	58	43
Jack Harvey	21	5-9	170	Left	Des Moines, Iowa	193rd overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	20	7	8	15	4
Ethan Hay	19	6-1	189	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	211th overall (2023)	Flint/Saginaw (OHL)	67	12	12	24	68
Waltteri Merela	26	6-3	210	Right	Ylojarvi, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 6/5/23	Syracuse (AHL)	55	15	19	34	16
Kaden Pitre	18	5-11	185	Left	Newmarket, Ont.	181st overall (2024)	Flint (OHL)	35	10	20	30	29
Brayden Point	28	5-10	178	Right	Calgary, Alta.	79th overall (2014)	Tampa Bay	81	46	44	90	14
Milo Roelens	21	6-7	217	Left	Ste-Petronille, Que.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/24	Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)	65	30	44	74	106
Simon Ryfors	27	5-10	181	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 5/12/21	Rogle (Swe.)	48	8	20	28	22
Joona Saarelainen	18	5-9	193	Left	Mikkeli, Fin.	149th overall (2024)	KalPa Jr. (Fin.)	41	13	23	36	20
Lukas Svejkovsky	22	5-10	165	Right	Tampa Bay, Fla	Trade: Pit 6/30/24	Wheeling (ECHL)	30	16	21	37	28
Gabriel Szturc	21	5-11	190	Left	Cesky Tesin, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/24	Kelowna (WHL)	62	33	50	83	48

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Joe Connor	19	5-9	167	Left	Amherst, N.H.	195th overall (2024)	Muskegon (USHL)	50	31	29	60	55
Dylan Duke	21	5-10	177	Left	Strongsville, Ohio	126th overall (2021)	Michigan (Big Ten)	41	26	23	49	30
Jaydon Dureau	23	5-11	176	Left	White City, Sask.	147th overall (2020)	Orlando (ECHL)	34	9	16	25	25
Robert Flinton	21	6-1	202	Left	Auburn, N.H.	211th overall (2021)	Dartmouth (ECAC)	30	15	10	25	25
Gabriel Fortier	24	5-11	181	Left	Lachine, Que.	59th overall (2018)	Syracuse (AHL)	62	13	13	26	12
Zemgus Girgensons	30	6-2	200	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Buffalo	63	8	6	14	21
Brandon Hagel	26	6-2	183	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Trade: Chi 3/18/22	Tampa Bay	82	26	49	75	79
Isaac Howard	20	5-10	180	Left	Hudson, Wis.	31st overall (2022)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	36	8	28	36	10
Nick Paul	29	6-3	229	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: Ott 3/20/22	Tampa Bay	82	24	22	46	27
Mikhail Shalagin	25	6-4	185	Left	Moscow, Rus.	198th overall (2019)	Soligorsk (Blr.)	54	47	36	83	32
Conor Sheary	32	5-8	179	Left	Winchester, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Tampa Bay	57	4	11	15	12
Noah Steen	20	6-1	187	Left	Oslo, Nor.	199th overall (2024)	Mora (Swe.2)	40	14	3	17	24
Klavs Veinbergs	21	6-3	207	Right	Riga, Lat.	224th overall (2022)	Colorado College (NCHC)	19	4	6	10	10
McKade Webster	24	5-10	167	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	213th overall (2019)	Denver (NCHC)	43	14	18	32	54

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Cam Atkinson	35	5-8	175	Right	Riverside, Conn.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Philadelphia	70	13	15	28	27
Hagen Burrows	18	6-2	174	Right	Plymouth, Minn.	128th overall (2024)	Minnetonka (USHS)	28	19	40	59	18
Nick Capone	22	6-2	202	Right	East Haven, Conn.	157th overall (2020)	Connecticut (HE)	32	4	4	8	46
Mitchell Chaffee	26	6-1	192	Right	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Syracuse (AHL)	36	12	14	26	16
Lucas Edmonds	23	5-10	170	Right	North Bay, Ont.	86th overall (2022)	Syracuse (AHL)	45	9	7	16	6
Ethan Gauthier	19	5-11	180	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	37th overall (2023)	Drummondville (QMJHL)	64	36	35	71	42
Maxim Groshev	22	6-2	199	Left	Agryz, Rus.	85th overall (2020)	Syracuse (AHL)	67	10	20	30	24
Jake Guentzel	29	5-11	180	Left	Omaha, Neb.	Trade: Car 6/29/24	Pittsburgh/Carolina	67	30	47	77	22
Niko Huuhtanen	21	6-2	204	Right	Espoo, Fin.	224th overall (2021)	Jukurit (Fin.)	52	19	27	46	46
Nikita Kucherov	31	5-11	182	Left	Maykop, Rus.	58th overall (2011)	Tampa Bay	81	44	100	144	22
Connor Kurth	21	5-11	215	Right	Elk River, Minn.	192nd overall (2022)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	37	7	14	21	14
Jayson Shaugabay	19	5-9	166	Right	Roseau, Minn.	115th overall (2023)	Green Bay (USHL)	62	15	40	55	12
Jesse Ylonen	24	6-1	200	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Montreal	59	4	4	8	12

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

AUSTON MATTHEWS

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
46-26-10 (.622)

OVERTIME
8-8

SHOOTOUT
5-2

OVERALL
10th

OFFENSE
3.63 GPG (2nd)

DEFENSE
3.18 GAA (21st)

POWER PLAY
24.0% (7th)

PENALTY KILL
76.9% (23rd)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.76 (7th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.60 (17th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Marner (21:17)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Rielly (23:44)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Craig Berube

GM
Brad Treliving

ARENA
Scotiabank Arena

CAPACITY
18,800

AHL AFFILIATE
Toronto Marlies

ECHL AFFILIATE
Cincinnati Cyclones

PLAYOFF RECORD
16-21 (since 2020)

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY CASEY IPPOLITO

ONE SEASON REMOVED FROM winning their first playoff series in 19 years, the Maple Leafs returned to a familiar script: a dramatic and devastating first-round exit. The core of Auston Matthews, William Nylander, John Tavares and Mitch Marner are the highest-paid forward quartet in the league but have yielded a single series win in six attempts. And yet, they enter another season intact.

Following the seven-game playoff loss to Boston, coach Sheldon Keefe was dismissed after five years on the job. Enter Craig Berube, who helmed St. Louis to the Stanley Cup in 2019. Under Berube, Toronto will likely score fewer goals at 5-on-5 as they adopt a style that's more aligned with the playoff grind.

OFFENSE

As top-heavy as ever, Toronto's forward group returns with downgraded depth on the wings. Matthews and Nylander will combine for somewhere around 100 goals. Tavares and Marner should eclipse 20 apiece, but there aren't any other sure bets for 20 goals. Matthews led the league last year with an absurd 69 tallies – tied for the 15th-best goal-scoring season in NHL history. Tenacious playmaker Max Domi, who established chemistry on Matthews' right wing and also performed well at third-line center, signed a team-friendly four-year extension. After a career-high 56 games and 27 points, 23-year-old Nick Robertson requested a trade. But he could benefit most from the departure of Tyler Bertuzzi on a somewhat thin left side that also features hardnosed Bobby McMann and Matthew Knies, the latter of whom showed a promising blend of grit and skill in his rookie year.

DEFENSE

There are obvious potential downsides to signing 34-year-old Chris Tanev to a six-year deal. But with a short-term view, the Leafs get an elite shutdown defenseman expected to be a natural fit opposite left-handed gunslinger Morgan Rielly. Jake McCabe was Toronto's best blueliner in the playoffs and will be a second-pair staple, along with Simon Benoit, Timothy Liljegren or UFA signee Oliver Ekman-Larsson. Ekman-Larsson's best days are in the past, but he's still a solid defender who just won a Stanley Cup as a regular in Florida. He's a viable power-play point man, too. Though getting solid support from the forwards in the defensive end has been better in recent years, it continues to be a work in progress.

GOALTENDING

Joseph Woll has played just 36 regular-season games over the past three years and has struggled with injuries, but he has intriguing upside as he enters his first season as the expected starter. Woll will have healthy competition from Anthony Stolarz, a journeyman who had a league-best .925 save percentage in 27 games last year in Florida. Dennis Hildeby had a solid rookie pro season in the AHL, while injury-plagued veteran Matt Murray was re-signed for depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The story is the same year after year: the power play sizzles in the regular season, then wilts in the playoffs. Incoming assistant coach Marc Savard will work with the power play after serving under Berube in St. Louis. Ekman-Larsson is an option to replace Rielly on the top unit. Penalty-kill fixture David Kampf will get help from newcomer Tanev, but ultimately, any improvement on the PK hinges on goaltending.

INTANGIBLES

Marner's relationship with the organization and fan base has been contentious at times, and he once again came under scrutiny after another disappointing playoff effort (three points in seven games). His name was the one that came up first in any external discussions about breaking up the 'Core Four.' His future could depend on Berube, who will try to install a new identity to a roster that's largely unchanged.

CUP ODDS

16/1

ROOKIES

Easton Cowan, the No. 28 pick in 2023, was the OHL MVP in both the regular season and playoffs and will push for a spot with his goal-scoring acumen. Fraser Minten, a 20-year-old center who played four games out of camp last year, will get another look. Homegrown D-men have been scarce in recent years, but Topi Niemela, 22, had 39 points in the AHL and is on an NHL trajectory.

X-FACTOR

The swiftest path to improvement lies in a single metric: team save percentage. Last year's .893 mark ranked 23rd as the Leafs never found stability in goal. Regardless of how well the roster meshes with Berube, the club will only succeed with capable netminding.

THE BRASS

Many believed team president Brendan Shanahan would be dismissed after another fruitless post-season, but new MLSE president Keith Pelley appeared with Shanahan at a post-series press conference and spoke glowingly about him. Shanahan is still the man at the top when it comes to the vision of the roster.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Matthew Knies	1. Auston Matthews	1. William Nylander
2. Bobby McMann	2. John Tavares	2. Mitch Marner
3. Nick Robertson	3. Max Domi	3. Calle Jarnkrok
4. Connor Dewar	4. David Kampf	4. Ryan Reaves
5. Fraser Minten	5. Pontus Holmberg	5. Easton Cowan

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Morgan Rielly	6. Timothy Liljegren	1. Joseph Woll
2. Chris Tanev	7. Conor Timmins	2. Anthony Stolarz
3. Jake McCabe	8. Dakota Mermis	3. Matt Murray
4. Oliver Ekman-Larsson	9. Philippe Myers	
5. Simon Benoit	10. Topi Niemela	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Tyler Bertuzzi, LW; T.J. Brodie, D; Ilya Samsonov, G; Ilya Lyubushkin, D; Joel Edmundson, D; Mark Giordano, D; Noah Gregor, LW

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Easton Cowan
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 London (OHL)
Slick playmaker ranked second in OHL per-game scoring. Looks to produce in all situations.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

2. Fraser Minten
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Saskatoon (WHL)
Earned NHL look before heading back to WHL. Solid both ways, but Leafs believe there's more offense.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Ben Danford
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Oshawa (OHL)
Solid 1-on-1 defender with plenty of pace. Modest production despite skill in transition.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Dennis Hildeby
Pos G **Age** 23
2023-24 Toronto (AHL)
Moves well, especially for a monster 6-foot-7 keeper. Earned AHL All-Star Game nod as rookie.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Topi Niemela
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Toronto (AHL)
Adding strength is a priority, as he already plays with poise and passes with precision.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

6. Nikita Grebenkin
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Magnitogorsk (KHL)
Powers his way into prime positions. Handles the puck well. Excellent sophomore KHL season.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

7. Artur Akhtyamov
Pos G **Age** 22
2023-24 Almetyevsk (Rus.2)
Set for move to AHL after rock-solid performances in Russian first- and second-tier circuits.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Nicholas Moldenhauer
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Michigan (Big Ten)
Former USHL standout improved as NCAA freshman season wore on. Challenge is overcoming size.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Ryan Tverberg
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Toronto (AHL)
Can turn on afterburners and beat defenders wide. Role as bottom-six nuisance in his future.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

10. Hudson Malinoski
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Providence (HE)
Decent freshman season despite injury issues. Bulking up will make him more effective as a pro.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100	101 Marner 100 Matthews	
	95 Nylander	
80		
		Rielly 65
60	57 Tavares	
	54 Domi	
	47 Knies	
40	41 Robertson 40 Jarnkrok	
	36 McMann	
	28 Cowan 26 Holmberg	Ekman-Larsson 26
	23 Kampf	
		McCabe 22
20		Liljegren 19
	17 Dewar	
		Timmins 15 Tanev 13
	10 Reaves	Benoit 10 Mermis 9
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 10	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 12	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	vs Los Angeles	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Columbus	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 31	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ Minnesota	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 8	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	vs Vegas	7:30 PM
Sun, Nov 24	vs Utah	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Florida	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 2	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 4	vs Nashville	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 6	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	vs Buffalo	5:00 PM
Wed, Dec 18	@ Dallas	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Winnipeg	2:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 5	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 9	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 22	vs Columbus	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 28	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	@ Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 3	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 5	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 8	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 10	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 17	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 19	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 9	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 17	vs Detroit	7:00 PM

LUKE DURDA/OHL IMAGES

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Artur Akhtyamov	22	6-1	167	Left	Kazan, Rus.	106th overall (2020)	Almetyevsk (Rus.2)	19	10-5-4	2.00	.927
Dennis Hildeby	23	6-7	222	Left	Jarfalla, Swe.	122nd overall (2022)	Toronto (AHL)	41	21-11-7	2.41	.913
Matt Murray	30	6-5	203	Left	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Trade: Ott 7/11/22	Toronto (AHL)	3	1-2-0	4.03	.846
Timofei Obvintsev	19	6-4	178	Left	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	157th overall (2024)	Krasnaya Armiya Moscow Jr. (Rus.)	16	7-7-0	2.96	.921
Vyacheslav Peksa	22	6-3	181	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	185th overall (2021)	Newfoundland (ECHL)	19	5-11-1	3.71	.890
Anthony Stolarz	30	6-6	243	Left	Edison, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Florida	27	16-7-2	2.03	.925
Joseph Woll	26	6-3	202	Left	Dardenne Prairie, Mo.	62nd overall (2016)	Toronto	25	12-11-1	2.94	.907

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Simon Benoit	26	6-4	205	Left	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 8/28/23	Toronto	64	1	4	5	56
Noah Chadwick	19	6-4	187	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	185th overall (2023)	Lethbridge (WHL)	66	12	44	56	24
Ben Danford	18	6-1	188	Right	Belleville, Ont.	31st overall (2024)	Oshawa (OHL)	64	1	32	33	25
Oliver Ekman-Larsson	33	6-2	191	Left	Karlskrona, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Florida	80	9	23	32	76
John Fusco	23	5-9	174	Right	Boston, Mass.	189th overall (2020)	Dartmouth (ECAC)	32	7	10	17	19
Victor Johansson	18	6-1	143	Left	Linkoping, Swe.	120th overall (2024)	Leksand Jr. (Swe.)	34	2	6	8	20
Mikko Kokkonen	23	6-0	200	Left	Mikkeli, Fin.	84th overall (2019)	Toronto (AHL)	65	5	14	19	28
Michael Koster	23	5-9	171	Left	Marshall, Minn.	146th overall (2019)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	33	2	12	14	4
Matt Lahey	18	6-5	203	Left	Victoria, B.C.	200th overall (2024)	Nanaimo (BCHL)	54	2	17	19	42
Timothy Liljegren	25	6-1	190	Right	Kristianstad, Swe.	17th overall (2017)	Toronto	55	3	20	23	16
Nicolas Mattinen	26	6-6	215	Right	Ottawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 4/14/24	Straubing (Ger.)	52	16	30	46	36
Nathan Mayes	18	6-4	194	Left	Salmon Arm, B.C.	225th overall (2024)	Spokane (WHL)	68	1	15	16	58
Jake McCabe	30	6-1	211	Left	Eau Claire, Wis.	Trade: Chi 2/27/23	Toronto	73	8	20	28	56
Dakota Mermis	30	6-0	195	Left	Alton, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Minnesota	47	3	5	8	33
Philippe Myers	27	6-6	213	Right	Moncton, N.B.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Syracuse (AHL)	61	4	19	23	67
Topi Niemela	22	6-0	179	Right	Oulu, Fin.	64th overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	68	8	31	39	43
Morgan Rielly	30	6-1	225	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	5th overall (2012)	Toronto	72	7	51	58	27
Marshall Rifai	26	6-2	205	Left	Beaconsfield, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Toronto (AHL)	57	2	17	19	71
Chris Tanev	34	6-2	193	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Dal 6/29/24	Calgary/Dallas	75	2	17	19	24
Conor Timmins	26	6-2	206	Right	St. Catharines, Ont.	Trade: Ari 11/23/22	Toronto	25	1	9	10	18
William Villeneuve	22	6-2	183	Right	Sherbrooke, Que.	122nd overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	54	2	23	25	43
Cade Webber	23	6-7	210	Left	Worcester, Mass.	Trade: Car 3/7/24	Boston University (HE)	38	0	6	6	30

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nick Abruzzese	25	5-11	180	Left	Slate Hill, N.Y.	124th overall (2019)	Toronto (AHL)	71	16	36	52	24
Semyon Der-Arguchintsev	24	5-10	173	Right	Moscow, Rus.	76th overall (2018)	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	53	17	17	34	18
Connor Dewar	25	5-10	183	Left	The Pas, Man.	Trade: Min 3/8/24	Minnesota/Toronto	74	11	8	19	28
Max Domi	29	5-10	208	Left	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Toronto	80	9	38	47	118
Roni Hirvonen	22	5-10	178	Left	Espoo, Fin.	59th overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	37	7	6	13	8
Miroslav Holinka	18	6-1	185	Right	Kromeriz, Cze.	151st overall (2024)	Trinec Jr. (Cze.)	29	20	21	41	14
Calle Jarnkrok	33	6-0	190	Right	Gavle, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/15/22	Toronto	52	10	11	21	18
David Kampf	29	6-2	190	Left	Chomutov, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Toronto	78	8	11	19	18
Braeden Kressler	21	5-9	169	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/2/21	Flint/Ottawa (OHL)	65	28	46	74	34
Hudson Malinoski	20	6-0	175	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	153rd overall (2023)	Providence (HE)	35	9	9	18	29
Auston Matthews	27	6-3	215	Left	San Ramon, Calif.	1st overall (2016)	Toronto	81	69	38	107	20
Bobby McMann	28	6-2	210	Left	Wainwright, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 4/29/22	Toronto	56	15	9	24	52
Joe Miller	22	5-8	147	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	180th overall (2020)	Harvard (ECAC)	32	13	14	27	8
Fraser Minten	20	6-2	192	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	38th overall (2022)	Kamloops/Saskatoon (WHL)	43	22	26	48	25
Cedric Pare	25	6-3	205	Left	Levis, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Colorado (AHL)	61	14	21	35	58
Jacob Quillan	22	6-0	201	Left	Dartmouth, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 4/1/24	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	39	17	29	46	16
Wyatt Schingoethe	22	5-10	200	Left	Algonquin, Ill.	195th overall (2020)	Western Michigan (NCHC)	24	0	4	4	2
Alex Steeves	24	6-0	196	Left	St. Paul, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 3/29/21	Toronto (AHL)	65	27	30	57	26
John Tavares	34	6-1	211	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/18	Toronto	80	29	36	65	30
Ryan Tverberg	22	5-11	187	Right	Richmond Hill, Ont.	213th overall (2020)	Toronto (AHL)	46	9	23	32	18

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Vladislav Kara	26	6-1	187	Left	Salekhard, Rus.	124th overall (2017)	Vityaz Moscow Region (KHL)	52	6	8	14	6
Matthew Knies	21	6-3	217	Left	Phoenix, Ariz.	57th overall (2021)	Toronto	80	15	20	35	45
Sam McCue	18	6-2	187	Left	Sudbury, Ont.	216th overall (2024)	Peterborough/Owen Sound (OHL)	68	23	14	37	53
Alexander Plesovskikh	18	6-2	174	Right	Tyumen, Rus.	152nd overall (2024)	Khanty-Mansiysk Jr. (Rus.)	33	8	9	17	10
Nick Robertson	23	5-9	178	Left	Pasadena, Calif.	53rd overall (2019)	Toronto	56	14	13	27	4
Ty Voit	21	5-10	157	Right	Pittsburgh, Pa.	153rd overall (2021)	Newfoundland (ECHL)	5	2	6	8	0

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Easton Cowan	19	5-11	185	Left	Strathroy, Ont.	28th overall (2023)	London (OHL)	54	34	62	96	64
Nikita Grebenkin	21	6-2	195	Left	Serov, Rus.	135th overall (2022)	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	67	19	22	41	17
Pontus Holmberg	25	6-0	188	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	156th overall (2018)	Toronto	54	7	10	17	18
Semyon Kizimov	24	6-0	176	Left	Togliatti, Rus.	211th overall (2018)	Yekaterinburg (KHL)	9	0	2	2	6
Mitch Marner	27	6-0	180	Right	Markham, Ont.	4th overall (2015)	Toronto	69	26	59	85	18
Veeti Miettinen	23	5-9	161	Left	Espoo, Fin.	168th overall (2020)	St. Cloud State (NCHC)	37	20	15	35	0
Nicholas Moldenhauer	20	5-10	170	Right	Oakville, Ont.	95th overall (2022)	Michigan (Big Ten)	41	8	13	21	2
William Nylander	28	6-0	202	Right	Calgary, Alta.	8th overall (2014)	Toronto	82	40	58	98	24
Ryan Reaves	37	6-2	226	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Toronto	49	4	2	6	49
Kirill Slepets	25	5-10	165	Left	Khabarovsk, Rus.	Trade: Car 3/1/24	Khabarovsk (KHL)	53	8	11	19	8

UTAH HOCKEY CLUB

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BY AUSTIN FACER

THE NHL HAS ARRIVED in Utah after a whirlwind relocation. Shortly after playing their last game in Tempe, the Arizona Coyotes' roster and franchise rights were purchased by tech billionaire Ryan Smith and the team was moved to Utah, set to take the ice at Delta Center in downtown Salt Lake City.

Smith has wasted no time creating a buzz around the temporarily named Utah Hockey Club. Not long after the relocation announcement, a capacity crowd at Delta Center was on hand to greet the team with reportedly 30,000 deposits made for season tickets. The fans are getting involved in a vote to determine the team's permanent name, which has yet to be announced. Combined with an arsenal of cap space, early draft picks and a core group of young talent, optimism is in the air for a roster that finished 36-41-5 last season in Arizona.

OFFENSE

Utah's forwards are defined by their youth and potential. Last season, Clayton Keller, 26, once again led the team in goals (33), assists (43) and points (76). And the group around him got much better – five of Keller's teammates joined him as 20-plus goal-scorers. Logan Cooley, the No. 3 pick in the 2022 draft, turned in an electric first year, playing all 82 games and posting 20 goals and 44 points to earn a spot on the all-rookie team. The forward group is the team's strength and will be supported by a big addition on the back end. Obtained in a draft-day trade, former Tampa Bay defenseman Mikhail Sergachev brings a heavy shot and strong playmaking to a team that badly needs an offensive punch from the blueline.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
36-41-5 (.470)

OVERTIME
6-5

SHOOTOUT
2-0

OVERALL
27th

OFFENSE
3.10 (16th)

DEFENSE
3.34 (25th)

POWER PLAY
22.0% (15th)

PENALTY KILL
76.3% (25th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.50 (21st)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.66 (25th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. Keller (19:15)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
S. Durzi (22.43)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Andre Tourigny

GM
Bill Armstrong

ARENA
Delta Center

CAPACITY
16,200

AHL AFFILIATE
Tucson Roadrunners

ECHL AFFILIATE
Allen Americans

PLAYOFF RECORD
4-5 (since 2020)

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

DEFENSE

Utah upgraded its blueline with a pair of trades on draft day. The team acquired two-time Stanley Cup champion Sergachev from the Lightning and veteran blueliner John Marino from New Jersey. Ian Cole, another two-time Cup-winning defenseman, was signed to a one-year deal in free agency. Along with the returns of Sean Durzi, Juuso Valimaki and Michael Kesselring, Utah now boasts a much more formidable defense corps. Sergachev, the ninth-overall pick in 2016, missed most of 2023-24 with a broken leg but put up a career-high 64 points in 2022-23. His large stature and ability to make plays checked all the boxes that teams look for in a true top-pairing defender.

GOALTENDING

Connor Ingram, who took home the Masterton Trophy last season, will start 2024-25 as the No. 1 goalie. In his first 30 games last year, he had a .919 save percentage and 2.47 goals-against average. However, he stumbled to an .889 SP and 3.57 GAA in his final 20 games. Karel Vejmelka will be the No. 2 option in net with a chance to take over if Ingram falters.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Utah (as the Coyotes) was a middle-of-the-road team on the power play last year, ranking 15th overall (22.0 percent). The club was closer to the bottom of the league on the penalty kill, at 25th overall (76.3 percent). Nick Schmaltz, whose 22 goals tied for third on the team, scored 10 times on the man advantage. Sergachev will be a key distributor on the power play. In his last full season in 2022-23, he had 24 PP assists for Tampa Bay.

BRETT HOLMES-USA TODAY SPORTS

INTANGIBLES

Midway through last season, the Coyotes' campaign went into a tailspin that included a 14-game losing streak as relocation rumors swirled. Now, taking the ice as Utah Hockey Club, the team is energized by a fresh start and all the excitement that surrounds it in a new location. How much will the newfound stability translate to wins? Time will tell. The newly acquired veteran leadership will be crucial in pushing young stars such as Keller, Cooley and Dylan Guenther even further along in their development.

CUP ODDS

35/1

ROOKIES

Right winger Josh Doan scored five goals and nine points in 11 games at the end of last season and appears ready for full-time NHL duty. Further down the depth chart, right winger Miko Matikka and left winger Julian Lutz both inked entry-level deals in the summer. Matikka leaves the University of Denver after winning an NCAA championship as one of the team's leading scorers. Lutz also showed great promise, scoring 24 goals in 50 games for USHL Green Bay. Both are likely to start the season in the AHL.

X-FACTOR

All eyes will be on Utah in the team's first season in a new location. The Hockey Club's first home game, set for Oct. 8 against Chicago, is set to be broadcast on national TV. Will the team embrace the excitement and capitalize on the buzz to get off to a hot start?

THE BRASS

GM Bill Armstrong and coach Andre Tourigny continue to build the roster and guide the team's on-ice philosophy. They'll report directly to former powerhouse sports agent Chris Armstrong, who heads the chain of command as the alternate governor and president of hockey operations.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Clayton Keller	1. Nick Bjugstad	1. Nick Schmaltz
2. Lawson Crouse	2. Barrett Hayton	2. Dylan Guenther
3. Matias Maccelli	3. Logan Cooley	3. Alexander Kerfoot
4. Michael Carcone	4. Kevin Stenlund	4. Josh Doan
5. Liam O'Brien	5. Jack McBain	5. Milos Kelemen

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mikhail Sergachev	6. Michael Kesselring	1. Connor Ingram
2. Sean Durzi	7. Kevin Connauton	2. Karel Vejmelka
3. John Marino	8. Vladislav Kolyachonok	3. Matt Villalta
4. Ian Cole	9. Maksymilian Szuber	
5. Juuso Valimaki	10. Patrik Koch	

INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs J.J. Moser, D; Josh Brown, D; Travis Dermott, D; Travis Boyd, C

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Tij Iginla
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Kelowna (WHL)
Great shot and lightning release, but he's not one-dimensional. All-around game will translate.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Dmitriy Simashev
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Yaroslavl (KHL)
Checks important boxes with size and mobility. Projects as a top-four stay-at-home defender.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Danil But
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Yaroslavl (KHL)
Towering 6-foot-5 winger has a high compete level but needs to add strength. Good puck skills.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Cole Beaudoin
Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Barrie (OHL)
If skating catches up to his smarts, two-way pivot is nailed-on to maintain a middle-six role.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

5. Maveric Lamoureux
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Drummondville (QMJHL)
Produced well in 'Q,' but size and physicality project him as more of a shutdown-pairing blueliner.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Michael Hrabal
Pos G **Age** 19
2023-24 UMass (HE)
Has taken incremental steps each season. At 6-foot-6, he doesn't give shooters much daylight.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Josh Doan
Pos RW **Age** 22
2023-24 Tucson (AHL)
Flourished in NHL cameo but won't be thrust into starring role. Figures as role-playing winger.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

8. Jonathan Castagna
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Cornell (ECAC)
High-energy shift disturber always involved in the action. Solidly built and underrated skill.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Julian Lutz
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Green Bay (USHL)
Among top 10 per-game scorers in USHL last season. Combination of hands and heart is valuable.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Will Skahan
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
Big and bruising down low with good mobility and stick. Set to get seasoning at Boston College.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	80 Keller	
	64 Guenther	
60	59 Maccelli 58 Schmaltz	
	54 Cooley	
		Sergachev 48
	47 Hayton 45 Crouse	
	42 Kerfoot	
40		
	35 Bjugstad	
		Durzi 34
	27 Doan 27 McBain 24 Carcone	
20		Marino 20 Valimaki 20
		Soderstrom 14 Kesselring 14
	13 O'Brien 11 Stenlund	Cole 13
		Kolyachonok 8
0		

SCHEDULE

Tue, Oct 8	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 12	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 14	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Wed, Oct 16	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Ottawa	9:15 PM
Thu, Oct 24	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	vs Calgary	9:30 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 24	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 26	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 2	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 18	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	vs Anaheim	5:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 30	@ Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 10	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Montreal	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs Winnipeg	9:30 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 24	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
Wed, Jan 29	vs Pittsburgh	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 31	vs Columbus	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Carolina	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 9	@ Washington	12:30 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 7	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Mon, Mar 10	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 12	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	@ Vancouver	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
Mon, Mar 24	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Chicago	4:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM

JOHN KELLER/KELOWNA ROCKETS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

UTAH HOCKEY CLUB

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Michael Hrabal	19	6-6	209	Left	Prague, Cze.	38th overall (2023)	UMass (HE)	30	16-12-1	2.59	.912
Connor Ingram	27	6-2	196	Left	Saskatoon, Sask.	Waivers: Nsh 10/10/22	Arizona	50	23-21-3	2.91	.907
Josef Korenar	26	6-1	185	Left	Pelhrimov, Cze.	Trade: SJ 7/17/21	Prague (Cze.)	25	19-5-0	2.09	.923
Rasmus Korhonen	21	6-5	194	Left	Tampere, Fin.	122nd overall (2021)	Jukurit (Fin.)	24	12-7-5	2.29	.903
Carsen Musser	19	6-4	215	Left	Fairmont, Minn.	166th overall (2023)	Madison (USHL)	32	17-11-2	2.74	.905
Jaxson Stauber	25	6-3	174	Left	Wayzata, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/24	Rockford (AHL)	31	18-8-3	2.85	.902
Melker Thelin	19	6-2	170	Left	Umea, Swe.	134th overall (2023)	Bjorkloven (Swe.2)	11	5-3-0	2.50	.915
Anson Thornton	21	6-3	180	Right	Oshawa, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/11/21	Reading (ECHL)	9	2-7-0	3.77	.893
Karel Vejmelka	28	6-4	224	Right	Trebic, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 5/4/21	Arizona	38	13-19-2	3.35	.897
Matt Villalta	25	6-3	190	Left	Kingston, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Tucson (AHL)	51	31-17-3	2.54	.911

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Gregor Biber	18	6-3	187	Left	Krems, Aut.	98th overall (2024)	Rogle Jr. (Swe.)	40	2	4	6	88
Ales Cech	20	6-3	196	Left	Prague, Cze.	153rd overall (2024)	Mlada Boleslav (Cze.)	40	0	7	7	20
Ian Cole	35	6-1	225	Left	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Vancouver	78	2	9	11	61
Kevin Connauton	34	6-2	205	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Ontario (AHL)	61	3	15	18	77
Artem Duda	20	6-1	187	Left	Moscow, Rus.	36th overall (2022)	Toronto Metro University (USports)	12	2	5	7	10
Sean Durzi	25	6-0	195	Right	Mississauga, Ont.	Trade: LA 6/24/23	Arizona	76	9	32	41	63
Terrell Goldsmith	19	6-4	223	Left	Fort St. James, B.C.	102nd overall (2023)	Prince Albert (WHL)	66	3	12	15	122
Michael Kesselring	24	6-4	190	Right	New Hampton, N.H.	Trade: Edm 3/2/23	Arizona	65	5	16	21	66
Justin Kipkie	19	6-3	195	Left	North Vancouver, B.C.	160th overall (2023)	Victoria (WHL)	67	16	36	52	35
Patrik Koch	27	6-1	190	Left	Malacky, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 6/5/23	Tucson (AHL)	63	1	14	15	97
Vladislav Kolyachonok	23	6-1	193	Left	Minsk, Blr.	Trade: Fla 7/26/21	Tucson (AHL)	36	8	3	11	14
Ludvig Lafton	18	6-2	187	Left	Baerum, Nor.	190th overall (2024)	Asker (Nor.)	21	0	2	2	4
Maveric Lamoureux	20	6-6	196	Right	Laval, Que.	29th overall (2022)	Drummondville (QMJHL)	39	9	24	33	53
Tomas Lavoie	18	6-4	215	Right	Repentigny, Que.	89th overall (2024)	Cape Breton (QMJHL)	65	3	21	24	24
John Marino	27	6-1	181	Right	North Easton, Mass.	Trade: NJ 6/29/24	New Jersey	75	4	21	25	41
Matthew Morden	20	6-4	203	Left	Hamilton, Ont.	131st overall (2022)	Harvard (ECAC)	32	1	2	3	12
Montana Onyebuchi	24	6-3	201	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/23	Tucson (AHL)	49	2	7	9	145
Mikhail Sergachev	26	6-3	211	Left	Nizhnekamsk, Rus.	Trade: TB 6/29/24	Tampa Bay	34	2	17	19	16
Dmitriy Simashev	19	6-4	198	Left	Kostroma, Rus.	6th overall (2023)	Yaroslavl (KHL)	63	4	6	10	18
Will Skahan	18	6-4	209	Left	Anaheim Hills, Calif.	65th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	60	5	9	14	73
Victor Soderstrom	23	5-11	184	Right	Gavle, Swe.	11th overall (2019)	Tucson (AHL)	62	9	23	32	34
Maksymilian Szuber	22	6-3	190	Left	Opole, Pol.	163rd overall (2022)	Tucson (AHL)	70	7	21	28	48
Cal Thomas	21	6-0	185	Left	Maple Grove, Minn.	171st overall (2021)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	38	1	9	10	8
Veeti Vaisanen	18	6-0	177	Left	Hamina, Fin.	96th overall (2024)	KooKoo (Fin.)	50	2	8	10	12
Juuso Valimaki	25	6-2	205	Left	Tampere, Fin.	Waivers: Cgy 10/9/22	Arizona	68	2	15	17	12
Shea Weber	39	6-4	230	Right	Sicamous, B.C.	Trade: Veg 2/22/23	Arizona	-	-	DNP	-	-

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Owen Allard	20	6-2	190	Left	Renfrew, Ont.	135th overall (2024)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	55	18	26	44	39
Samu Bau	20	6-5	214	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	162nd overall (2023)	Ilves (Fin.)	43	2	0	2	12
Cole Beaudoin	18	6-2	209	Left	Ottawa, Ont.	24th overall (2024)	Barrie (OHL)	67	28	34	62	27
Nick Bjugstad	32	6-6	209	Right	Minneapolis, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Arizona	76	22	23	45	59
Jonathan Castagna	19	6-1	183	Left	Toronto, Ont.	70th overall (2023)	Cornell (ECAC)	35	11	14	25	25
Logan Cooley	20	5-10	174	Left	Pittsburgh, Pa.	3rd overall (2022)	Arizona	82	20	24	44	18
Curtis Douglas	24	6-9	242	Left	Oakville, Ont.	Trade: Tor 11/23/22	Tucson (AHL)	57	5	16	21	148
Barrett Hayton	24	6-1	207	Left	Peterborough, Ont.	5th overall (2018)	Arizona	33	3	7	10	26
Vojtech Hradec	19	6-4	202	Left	Mlada Boleslav, Cze.	167th overall (2024)	Mlada Boleslav (Cze.)	25	1	0	1	2
Tij Iginla	18	6-0	182	Left	Kelowna, B.C.	6th overall (2024)	Kelowna (WHL)	64	47	37	84	35
Alexander Kerfoot	30	5-11	186	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Arizona	82	13	32	45	26
Tanner Ludtke	19	6-0	185	Left	Lakeville, Minn.	81st overall (2023)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	40	11	17	28	28
Jack McBain	24	6-3	201	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Min 3/21/22	Arizona	67	8	18	26	50
Liam O'Brien	30	6-1	213	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Arizona	75	5	9	14	153
Nick Schmaltz	28	6-0	181	Right	Madison, Wis.	Trade: Chi 11/25/18	Arizona	79	22	39	61	10
Gabe Smith	18	6-4	208	Left	St. Andrews, N.B.	103rd overall (2024)	Moncton (QMJHL)	54	9	14	23	72
Kevin Stenlund	28	6-5	215	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Florida	81	11	4	15	62

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Andrew Agozzino	33	5-10	187	Left	Kleinburg, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	San Diego (AHL)	72	26	38	64	44
Carson Bantle	22	6-4	194	Left	Onalaska, Wis.	142nd overall (2020)	Wisconsin (Big Ten)	39	14	5	19	45
Travis Barron	26	6-1	205	Left	Brampton, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Tucson (AHL)	68	10	10	20	80
Danil But	19	6-5	203	Right	Yaroslavl, Rus.	12th overall (2023)	Yaroslavl (KHL)	55	10	11	21	10
Michael Carcone	28	5-9	170	Left	Ajax, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/29/21	Arizona	74	21	8	29	35
Lawson Crouse	27	6-4	215	Left	Mt. Brydges, Ont.	Trade: Fla 8/25/16	Arizona	81	23	19	42	36
Ilya Fedotov	21	6-0	176	Right	Saratov, Rus.	43rd overall (2021)	St. Petersburg (KHL)	16	0	0	0	10
Milos Kelemen	25	6-2	210	Left	Zvolen, Svk.	Free Agent: signed 5/5/22	Tucson (AHL)	54	16	16	32	67
Sam Lipkin	21	6-2	192	Left	Philadelphia, Pa.	223rd overall (2021)	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	39	15	20	35	37
Julian Lutz	20	6-1	185	Left	Weingarten, Ger.	43rd overall (2022)	Green Bay (USHL)	50	24	44	68	71
Matias Maccelli	23	5-11	176	Left	Turku, Fin.	98th overall (2019)	Arizona	82	17	40	57	8
Ben McCartney	23	6-0	182	Left	Portage la Prairie, Man.	204th overall (2020)	Tucson (AHL)	46	6	16	22	67
Noel Nordh	19	6-2	196	Left	Soderhamn, Swe.	72nd overall (2023)	Brynas (Swe.2)	50	6	9	15	6
Danil Savunov	23	5-10	147	Left	Sarov, Rus.	174th overall (2019)	AKM Tula Region/Novokuznetsk (Rus.2)	22	6	4	10	0
Egor Sokolov	24	6-3	222	Right	Yekaterinburg, Rus.	Trade: Ott 7/3/24	Belleville (AHL)	71	21	25	46	69

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alexandr Darin	24	5-11	159	Right	Yaroslavl, Rus.	107th overall (2019)	Niz. Novgorod/Vityaz Moscow Region (KHL)	48	8	15	23	12
Josh Doan	22	6-1	183	Right	Scottsdale, Ariz.	37th overall (2021)	Tucson (AHL)	62	26	20	46	32
Dylan Guenther	21	6-2	175	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	9th overall (2021)	Arizona	45	18	17	35	14
Clayton Keller	26	5-10	178	Left	Chesterfield, Mo.	7th overall (2016)	Arizona	78	33	43	76	32
Miko Matikka	20	6-3	187	Right	Helsinki, Fin.	67th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	43	20	13	33	41
Vadim Moroz	20	6-2	185	Right	Minsk, Blr.	88th overall (2023)	Minsk (KHL)	63	11	11	22	10
Aku Raty	23	6-0	170	Right	Oulu, Fin.	151st overall (2019)	Tucson (AHL)	55	15	29	44	22
Adam Zlnka	20	6-0	173	Right	Zvolen, Svk.	204th overall (2022)	Waterloo/Des Moines (USHL)	46	10	8	18	14

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

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BY BEN KUZMA

THE CANUCKS WENT BIG-GAME hunting in their remarkable 2023-24 season. In a dramatic 26-point improvement, they rocketed to 109 points and a Pacific Division title. It was their first playoff appearance in four seasons and just their second in the past nine years.

Voters got it right when Rick Tocchet was named the NHL's best coach, and dynamic defenseman Quinn Hughes claimed the Norris Trophy, the first time a Canucks blueliner earned the honor. Thatcher Demko was also a Vezina Trophy finalist. But there's just one problem with the impressive performances, points and plaudits: the Canucks have now gone from hunters to the hunted.

And when you consider the free-agent departures of center Elias Lindholm, defensemen Nikita Zadorov and Ian Cole and backup goalie Casey DeSmith, there's a challenge. On the plus side, Vancouver addressed the pressing need for a top-six winger to skate with Elias Pettersson. Jake DeBrusk was down the wish-list order but rose to the top after Jake Guentzel, Sam Reinhart and Tyler Toffoli signed elsewhere. The Canucks also added versatile forwards Danton Heinen, Kiefer Sherwood and Nathan Smith in free agency along with towering defensemen Vincent Desharnais and Derek Forbort.

>OFFENSE

J.T. Miller remains the straw that stirs the drink. He had a career-high 103 points last season to finish ninth in league scoring. Miller and right winger Brock Boeser, who hit the 40-goal plateau (including 16 power-play goals), will see revolving left wingers until the team finds the right fit. Pettersson couldn't find consistency with a

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
50-23-9 (.665)

OVERTIME
6-7

SHOOTOUT
0-2

OVERALL
6th

OFFENSE
3.40 (6th)

DEFENSE
2.70 (6th)

POWER PLAY
22.7% (11th)

PENALTY KILL
79.1% (17th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.59 (14th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.36 (6th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
E. Pettersson (19:39)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
Q. Hughes (24:41)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Rick Tocchet

GM
Patrik Allvin

ARENA
Rogers Arena

CAPACITY
18,910

AHL AFFILIATE
Abbotsford Canucks

ECHL AFFILIATE
Kalamazoo Wings

PLAYOFF RECORD
17-13 (since 2020)

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

ELIAS PETTERSSON

variety of options on his wings and went from superlative to suspect in the second half of 2023-24 when slowed by knee tendinitis. Still, he finished with 89 points and 13 power-play goals. Overall, with the additions of DeBrusk and Heinen, Vancouver has better depth and more options up front this season.

DEFENSE

Hughes was named captain last season, and his leadership on and off the ice was impressive. A career-high 92 points led NHL blueliners, and his partnership with re-signed Filip Hronek, who had 48 points, ensures an effective top pairing. The problem is there's a drop-off after that. The rejuvenated Tyler Myers had 29 points last season, while second-pairing partner Carson Soucy battled injuries and had but six points in 40 games. Desharnais and Forbort bring size and snarl. The depth options are Noah Juulsen and Mark Friedman.

GOALTENDING

The return of a healthy Demko and the rise of Arturs Silovs bodes well. Silovs, 23, stepped up big-time in replacing injured starter Demko and DeSmith in the playoffs, which cemented his status as the backup this season. Demko was superb in 51 regular-season games, posting career bests in goals-against average (2.45), save percentage (.918) and shutouts (five).

SPECIAL TEAMS

The penalty kill finished 17th in the league at 79.1 percent in the regular season and sixth in the playoffs at 81.0 percent. The power play, meanwhile, featured a first unit that looked great on paper but became plodding and predictable in trying to thread the perfect pass to set up the perfect goal. It finished 11th in the regular season at 22.7 percent, then plummeted to 13.9 percent in the playoffs. DeBrusk will help as a net-front presence.

INTANGIBLES

Can third-liner Dakota Joshua, who finished seventh in hits among NHL forwards, build on his career-best 32 points last season? Can he improve on his eight playoff points in 13 games and get a first-line look with Miller? He was dynamic last season with Conor Garland and Teddy Blueger on the third line. Has Nils Hoglander arrived as a 24-goal winger to remain with Pettersson, or will he slip into bad habits?

CUP ODDS

22/1

ROOKIES

The Canucks are in win-now mode, and it's hard to imagine any prospects getting more than just the customary cup-of-coffee look. Wingers Arshdeep Bains and Linus Karlsson played eight and four games last year, respectively. Jonathan Lekkerimaki will get a chance at some point, as will defenseman Cole McWard.

X-FACTOR

Vancouver had the ninth-best road record last season. With six-game stretches away from home in November and March, the team's ability to continue that success could decide their fate in the Pacific Division pecking order.

THE BRASS

Tocchet got the buy-in and improved fitness, resiliency and defensive structure last season. He needs former skills coach Yogi Svejkovsky to help improve the power play as a new assistant. GM Patrik Allvin isn't afraid to swing for the fences in trade talks.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jake DeBrusk	1. J.T. Miller	1. Brock Boeser
2. Nils Hoglander	2. Elias Pettersson	2. Conor Garland
3. Dakota Joshua	3. Pius Suter	3. Daniel Sprong
4. Danton Heinen	4. Teddy Blueger	4. Phillip Di Giuseppe
5. Kiefer Sherwood	5. Nils Aman	5. Vasily Podkolzin

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Quinn Hughes	6. Vincent Desharnais	1. Thatcher Demko
2. Filip Hronek	7. Noah Juulsen	2. Arturs Silovs
3. Carson Soucy	8. Mark Friedman	3. Nikita Tolopilo
4. Tyler Myers	9. Guillaume Brisebois	
5. Derek Forbort	10. Christian Wolanin	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Elias Lindholm, C; Nikita Zadorov, D; Ilya Mikheyev, RW; Casey DeSmith, G; Sam Lafferty, C; Ian Cole, D

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FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jonathan Lekkerimaki

Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Orebro (Swe.)
Wicked release and accuracy make for a lethal combination. Patient development will lead to results.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Tom Willander

Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston University (HE)
No glaring weaknesses in all-around defender's game. Uses speed to advantage at both ends.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

3. Elias Pettersson

Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Vasteras (Swe.2)
Takes hits to make plays – then the 6-foot-2 blueliner returns physicality with a vengeance.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Arshdeep Bains

Pos LW **Age** 23
2023-24 Abbotsford (AHL)
Made All-Star Game in second AHL season. Club loves his ability to play on the penalty kill.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Arturs Silovs

Pos G **Age** 23
2023-24 Abbotsford (AHL)
Playoff heroics earned him brief celebrity status. Cool-headed keeper is set for No. 2 job.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

6. Aatu Raty

Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Abbotsford (AHL)
Learning to play in all situations and rediscovering offensive game. A project worth watching.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Melvin Fernstrom

Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
He fills the net and is likely to see SHL action this season. Skating needs to improve.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

8. Max Sasson

Pos C **Age** 24
2023-24 Abbotsford (AHL)
Undrafted college free agent transitioned well in first pro campaign. Never takes a shift off.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

9. Sawyer Mynio

Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Seattle (WHL)
Looks to make plays. Can skate himself out of trouble. Earned an AHL cameo at end of season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Riley Patterson

Pos C **Age** 18
2023-24 Barrie (OHL)
Quick release and keen sense of when and where to attack. Led OHL rookies with 29 goals.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100 Miller	
93 Pettersson	
	Hughes 86
80	
	67 Boeser
60	
	Hronek 55
47 DeBrusk	
46 Garland	
42 Sprong	
40	
37 Suter	
36 Hoglander	
33 Joshua	
28 Heinen	
26 Sherwood	
24 Podkolzin	
22 Blueger	
20	
	Myers 19
16 Aman	
15 Di Giuseppe	Soucy 15
	Juulsen 13
	Desharnais 10
	Forbort 9
0	

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 11	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Chicago	8:15 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	vs New Jersey	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 2	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 26	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Buffalo	3:00 PM
Sun, Dec 1	@ Detroit	12:30 PM
Tue, Dec 3	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	vs Tampa Bay	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Boston	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 16	vs Colorado	10:30 PM
Wed, Dec 18	@ Utah	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Seattle	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 3	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 8	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 10	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 27	@ St. Louis	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 29	@ Nashville	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 8	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	@ Utah	8:00 PM
Wed, Feb 26	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 5	vs Anaheim	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 7	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs Montreal	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 12	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	@ NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 24	@ New Jersey	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 26	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 28	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	vs Seattle	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 5	vs Anaheim	4:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 14	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	vs Vegas	10:00 PM

PHOTO BY SWEDISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Thatcher Demko	28	6-4	192	Left	San Diego, Calif.	36th overall (2014)	Vancouver	51	35-14-2	2.45	.918
Aku Koskenvuo	21	6-4	173	Left	Espoo, Fin.	137th overall (2021)	Harvard (ECAC)	17	5-6-4	2.95	.910
Jiri Patera	25	6-3	212	Left	Prague, Cze.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Henderson (AHL)	25	11-10-4	2.99	.903
Arturs Silovs	23	6-4	203	Left	Riga, Lat.	156th overall (2019)	Abbotsford (AHL)	34	16-11-6	2.74	.907
Matthew Thiessen	24	6-2	192	Left	Steinbach, Man.	192nd overall (2018)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	18	3-11-2	3.14	.904
Nikita Tolopilo	24	6-6	229	Left	Minsk, Blr.	Free Agent: signed 3/31/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	35	20-13-1	2.83	.905
Ty Young	20	6-3	181	Left	Calgary, Alta.	144th overall (2022)	Prince George (WHL)	37	23-11-0	2.79	.903
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Parker Alcos	18	6-3	180	Right	Port Moody, B.C.	189th overall (2024)	Edmonton (WHL)	67	1	14	15	29
Guillaume Brisebois	27	6-2	175	Left	Longueuil, Que.	66th overall (2015)	Abbotsford (AHL)	8	0	0	0	0
Aiden Celebrini	19	6-1	187	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	171st overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	36	1	5	6	20
Vincent Desharnais	28	6-7	226	Right	Laval, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Edmonton	78	1	10	11	54
Jackson Dorrington	20	6-2	192	Left	Manchester, N.H.	176th overall (2022)	Northeastern (HE)	33	6	6	12	6
Christian Felton	24	6-1	185	Right	Medina, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 3/15/24	Merrimack (HE)	26	3	4	7	4
Derek Forbort	32	6-4	216	Left	Duluth, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	35	0	4	4	17
Mark Friedman	28	5-11	185	Right	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Pit 10/17/23	Vancouver	23	0	1	1	21
Hugo Gabrielson	21	6-1	172	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	169th overall (2021)	Vastervik (Swe.2)	47	5	10	15	10
Akito Hirose	25	6-0	170	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/29/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	33	0	2	2	6
Filip Hronek	26	6-0	190	Right	Hradec Kralove, Cze.	Trade: Det 3/1/23	Vancouver	81	5	43	48	38
Quinn Hughes	24	5-10	180	Left	Orlando, Fla.	7th overall (2018)	Vancouver	82	17	75	92	38
Noah Juulsen	27	6-2	201	Right	Surrey, B.C.	Trade: Fla 10/10/21	Vancouver	54	1	6	7	22
Kirill Kudryavtsev	20	5-11	200	Left	Yaroslavl, Rus.	208th overall (2022)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	67	5	42	47	18
Cole McWard	23	6-1	192	Right	Fenton, Mo.	Free Agent: signed 4/4/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	57	4	13	17	16
Tyler Myers	34	6-8	229	Right	Houston, Texas	Free Agent: signed 7/1/19	Vancouver	77	5	24	29	77
Sawyer Mynio	19	6-1	173	Left	Kamloops, B.C.	89th overall (2023)	Seattle (WHL)	63	16	37	53	66
Elias Pettersson	20	6-2	185	Left	Vasteras, Swe.	80th overall (2022)	Vasteras (Swe.2)	34	3	11	14	8
Tucker Poolman	31	6-2	199	Right	Dubuque, Iowa	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Vancouver	-	-	DNP	-	-
Basile Sansonnens	18	6-3	196	Left	Estavayer, Sui.	221st overall (2024)	Fribourg Jr. (Sui.)	40	1	2	3	35
Carson Soucy	30	6-5	208	Left	Viking, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Vancouver	40	2	4	6	12
Jacob Truscott	22	6-1	170	Left	Port Huron, Mich.	144th overall (2020)	Michigan (Big Ten)	41	2	14	16	41
Tom Willander	19	6-1	180	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	11th overall (2023)	Boston University (HE)	38	4	21	25	12
Christian Wolanin	29	6-2	190	Left	Quebec City, Que.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Abbotsford (AHL)	42	5	24	29	20
Jett Woo	24	6-0	205	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	37th overall (2018)	Abbotsford (AHL)	62	7	24	31	93
CENTERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Nils Aman	24	6-2	179	Left	Avesta, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 6/7/22	Vancouver	43	3	4	7	8
Teddy Blueger	30	6-0	185	Left	Riga, Lat.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Vancouver	68	6	22	28	31
Daimon Gardner	20	6-4	200	Left	Eagle Lake, Ont.	112th overall (2022)	Clarkson (ECAC)	29	1	5	6	8
Ty Glover	24	6-3	200	Left	Salford, Gbr.	Trade: Pit 10/17/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	37	3	4	7	22
Danton Heinen	29	6-2	195	Left	Langley, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	74	17	19	36	28
Dakota Joshua	28	6-3	206	Left	Dearborn, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Vancouver	63	18	14	32	60
Linus Karlsson	24	6-1	178	Right	Eksjo, Swe.	Trade: SJ 2/25/19	Abbotsford (AHL)	60	23	37	60	30
J.T. Miller	31	6-1	218	Left	East Palestine, Ohio	Trade: TB 6/22/19	Vancouver	81	37	66	103	58
Ty Mueller	21	5-11	185	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	105th overall (2023)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	40	11	15	26	33
Tristen Nielsen	24	5-10	192	Left	Fort St. John, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	59	16	19	35	52
Riley Patterson	18	6-0	192	Right	Burlington, Ont.	125th overall (2024)	Barrie (OHL)	68	29	33	62	10
Matthew Perkins	20	5-11	156	Left	Regina, Sask.	119th overall (2023)	Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)	35	6	9	15	12
Elias Pettersson	25	6-2	176	Left	Sundsvall, Swe.	5th overall (2017)	Vancouver	82	34	55	89	12
Aatu Raty	21	6-2	190	Left	Oulu, Fin.	Trade: NYI 1/30/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	72	18	34	52	18
Anthony Romani	19	6-0	185	Right	Pickering, Ont.	162nd overall (2024)	North Bay (OHL)	68	58	53	111	20
Max Sasson	24	6-1	181	Left	Birmingham, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 3/26/23	Abbotsford (AHL)	56	18	24	42	36
Nathan Smith	25	6-0	177	Right	Tampa, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Tucson (AHL)	60	12	19	31	38
Pius Suter	28	5-11	179	Left	Zurich, Sui.	Free Agent: signed 8/11/23	Vancouver	67	14	15	29	16
Dmitry Zlodeyev	22	5-11	185	Left	Voronezh, Rus.	175th overall (2020)	Abbotsford (AHL)	21	1	0	1	2
LEFT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Vilmer Alriksson	19	6-6	214	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	107th overall (2023)	Guelph (OHL)	67	17	16	33	35
Arshdeep Bains	23	6-0	184	Left	Surrey, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/11/22	Abbotsford (AHL)	59	16	39	55	28
Josh Bloom	21	6-2	182	Left	Oakville, Ont.	Trade: Buf 2/27/23	Saginaw (OHL)	34	17	23	40	15
Jake DeBrusk	27	6-1	198	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Boston	80	19	21	40	18
Phillip Di Giuseppe	30	6-0	193	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Vancouver	51	5	5	10	36
Lucas Forsell	21	6-0	161	Right	Vasteras, Swe.	201st overall (2021)	Farjestad (Swe.)	46	4	3	7	16
Nils Hoglander	23	5-9	185	Left	Bocktrask, Swe.	40th overall (2019)	Vancouver	80	24	12	36	51
Jackson Kunz	22	6-3	210	Left	Lincoln, Neb.	113th overall (2020)	North Dakota (NCHC)	37	9	10	19	4
Kiefer Sherwood	29	6-0	194	Right	Columbus, Ohio	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Nashville	68	10	17	27	41
RIGHT WINGERS	**AGE**	**HT.**	**WT.**	**SHOOTS**	**BORN**	**ACQUIRED**	**2023-24**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**
Brock Boeser	27	6-1	208	Right	Burnsville, Minn.	23rd overall (2015)	Vancouver	81	40	33	73	14
Melvin Fernstrom	18	6-1	185	Right	Balsta, Swe.	93rd overall (2024)	Orebro Jr. (Swe.)	45	31	32	63	28
Conor Garland	28	5-10	165	Right	Scituate, Mass.	Trade: Ari 7/23/21	Vancouver	82	20	27	47	35
Lukas Jasek	27	5-11	165	Right	Trinec, Cze.	174th overall (2015)	Oskarshamn (Swe.)	49	14	14	28	39
Danila Klimovich	21	6-2	202	Right	Pinsk, Blr.	41st overall (2021)	Abbotsford (AHL)	24	2	2	4	20
Vitali Kravtsov	24	6-3	186	Left	Vladivostok, Rus.	Trade: NYR 2/25/23	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	55	18	16	34	16
Jonathan Lekkerimaki	20	5-11	172	Right	Tullinge, Swe.	15th overall (2022)	Orebro (Swe.)	46	19	12	31	10
Jack Malone	23	6-1	191	Right	Danville, Calif.	180th overall (2019)	Boston College (HE)	41	12	13	25	12
Vasily Podkolzin	23	6-1	190	Left	Moscow, Rus.	10th overall (2019)	Abbotsford (AHL)	44	15	13	28	15
Daniel Sprong	27	6-0	195	Right	Amsterdam, Ned.	Free Agent: signed 7/20/24	Detroit	76	18	25	43	22

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

BY SCOTT ZERR

A **YEAR AFTER WINNING THE** Stanley Cup, the Golden Knights made an unexpectedly hasty exit from the 2024 playoffs. It was like watching a big-time headliner on The Strip deteriorate into a club act, which was definitely not what the Golden Knights had in mind after once again going big-name hunting at the trade deadline. It was a fall from grace, but in the parity-rich NHL, things can turn around quickly.

Regaining past glory won't be easy, however, with fan-favorite and original 'Golden Misfit' Jonathan Marchessault topping a list of prominent players who moved on this summer. The Knights enter 2024-25 with plenty of questions, but with their history of acquiring shiny toys via trade, they're not a long-shot just yet.

OFFENSE

The Golden Knights saw more than 70 goals and 180 points disappear from last year's lineup when free agency began on July 1. Jack Eichel will surely score more than the 31 goals he managed during an injury-shortened season where he played just 63 games, but Vegas enters the new campaign loudly wondering where the rest of the offense is going to come from. William Karlsson hit 30 goals last year for the first time since his breakout 43-goal season in 2017-18. Tomas Hertl, a surprise trade-deadline acquisition from San Jose, will aim for a third 30-goal season. And if the Golden Knights can get anything close to 60 games out of two-way stud Mark Stone, that will go a long way, as he's a point-per-game producer on the wing. The Knights are definitely going to need to unlock whatever stymied newcomer Victor Olofsson and get another gear out of Ivan Barbashev and Pavel Dorofeyev.

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
45-29-8 (.598)

OVERTIME
7-6

SHOOTOUT
4-2

OVERALL
14th

OFFENSE
3.21 (14th)

DEFENSE
2.96 (12th)

POWER PLAY
20.2% (20th)

PENALTY KILL
79.3% (16th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.55 (16th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.46 (11th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Eichel (20:31)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
A. Pietrangelo (23.34)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Bruce Cassidy

GM
Kelly McCrimmon

ARENA
T-Mobile Arena

CAPACITY
17,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Henderson Silver Knights

ECHL AFFILIATE
Tahoe Knight Monsters

PLAYOFF RECORD
38-27 (since 2020)

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VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

ALEX PIETRANGELO

>DEFENSE

Alex Pietrangelo, Shea Theodore and Noah Hanifin give the Golden Knights a top three who make the majority of the league a little envious. Between them, they boast a solid mix of playoff experience and ample skill, while both Pietrangelo and Theodore will be out to improve on last season's offensive output. The Knights went big on Hanifin, acquiring him at the trade deadline and immediately signing him to a long-term deal. Original 'Misfit' Brayden McNabb continues to give a yeoman's effort, and Vegas has a competent bottom pairing in Nic Hague and Zach Whitecloud. Top prospect Lukas Cormier is also pushing for a spot.

>GOALTENDING

The net now fully belongs to past playoff hero Adin Hill after the trade that sent former tandem partner Logan Thompson to Washington for a pair of third-round picks. Hill has had some injury issues but made 35 starts in 2023-24. The Golden Knights brought in Ilya Samsonov via free agency and traded for Akira Schmid to give them a pair of options at the back-up role and some security if Hill gets hurt again.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

A two-way talented roster should not have the problems the Golden Knights had on the power play (20th) and penalty kill (16th) last season, and losing multiple penalty-killers won't help. Stone would make both units better, but his health is a perennial question mark. The departed players accounted for more than 40 power-play points last year, so that unit going to need a significant lift from Hertl and Hanifin. Olofsson could also have a hand in improving power play. Of his career 182 points, 61 have come with the man advantage.

>INTANGIBLES

The Golden Knights would certainly benefit from a turnaround in fortune for newcomers Olofsson and Alexander Holtz. Olofsson had just seven goals last year, but he's had three 20-plus goal seasons in the past, and Vegas is banking on a return to that kind of production. Holtz isn't about to replace Marchessault, but he'll get ample opportunity to showcase the skills that made him a top-10 pick in the 2020 draft.

CUP ODDS

18/1

>ROOKIES

The cupboard isn't bare, but after all the trades that dispatched top picks and prospects, there is a shortage of up-and-comers who are ready to jump into the lineup. Defensemen Cormier (drafted 68th overall in 2020) and Daniil Chayka (38th in '21) could see spot duty this season.

>X-FACTOR

A first-round exit for the reigning Stanley Cup champions was an unexpected and harsh blow. That, followed by an unpopular teardown of the roster and the seemingly never-ending health issues of captain Stone leaves a big question: will the coming season see a stunning return to glory or the start of a downward trend?

>THE BRASS

GM Kelly McCrimmon goes into the season with a team that doesn't look close to what it has been in previous years. Vegas lost a lot to free agency, but McCrimmon is never afraid to pull off a monster trade (see: Eichel, Hertl, Hanifin) and another big swing could change the Golden Knights' trajectory in a flash.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

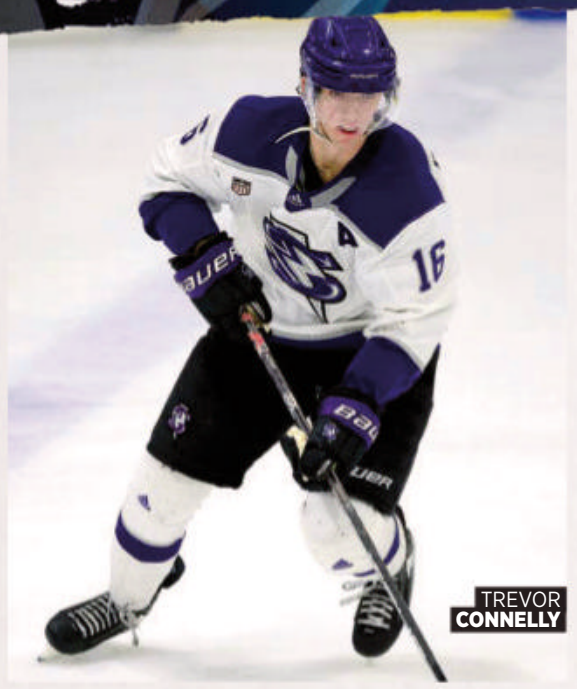
LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Ivan Barbashev	1. Jack Eichel	1. Mark Stone
2. Pavel Dorofeyev	2. Tomas Hertl	2. Victor Olofsson
3. Brett Howden	3. William Karlsson	3. Alexander Holtz
4. Mason Morelli	4. Nicolas Roy	4. Keegan Kolesar
5. Jonas Rondbjerg	5. Zach Aston-Reese	5. Brendan Brisson

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Alex Pietrangelo	6. Nicolas Hague	1. Adin Hill
2. Shea Theodore	7. Kaedan Korczak	2. Ilya Samsonov
3. Noah Hanifin	8. Ben Hutton	3. Akira Schmid
4. Brayden McNabb	9. Lukas Cormier	
5. Zach Whitecloud	10. Robert Hagg	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jonathan Marchessault, RW; Chandler Stephenson, C; Alec Martinez, D; Anthony Mantha, RW; Michael Amadio, C; William Carrier, LW; Paul Cotter, C

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS



FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Trevor Connelly
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Tri-City (USHL)
Speed, puck skill and vision helped him land among USHL scoring leaders. Off to NCAA Providence.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

2. Lukas Cormier
Pos D **Age** 22
2023-24 Henderson (AHL)
Time in AHL has been boon to development. Puck-moving ability allows him to stretch the ice.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Brendan Brisson
Pos C **Age** 22
2023-24 Henderson (AHL)
Offensive skill shines through as he puts in work to develop finer details. Saw 15 NHL games.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

4. Akira Schmid
Pos G **Age** 24
2023-24 Utica (AHL)
Has shown second-string ability and flashes he can rise higher. Ideal size. Lacks consistency.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Matyas Sapovaliv
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Saginaw (OHL)
Understands both sides of ice, and he executes at a high level. Projects as a big, shutdown center.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

6. Arttu Karki
Pos D **Age** 19
2023-24 Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Adjusted well to North American ice. Talented distributor waits out oncomers to find lanes.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

7. Mathieu Cataford
Pos C **Age** 19
2023-24 Halifax (QMJHL)
Has high-end talent, but his calling card is his sound defensive game. High floor, low ceiling.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

8. Jakub Brabenec
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Henderson (AHL)
Causes turnovers and rushes defenders with rapid forechecking ability. Good first AHL season.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Daniil Chayka
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Henderson (AHL)
Limited production but size and reach disarm attackers. Bottom-pairing defender at NHL level.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

10. Pavel Moysevich
Pos G **Age** 20
2023-24 SKA-Neva (Rus.2)
Stunning stats – including .942 SP – in 13 KHL games as rookie pro. Makes most of 6-foot-4 frame.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	72 Eichel	
60	59 Hertl	
		Theodore 53
	49 Karlsson	
	48 Roy	
	47 Barbashev	
	45 Stone	Pietrangelo 45
40		
	38 Holtz	
		Hanifin 36
	33 Dorofeyev	
	28 Olofsson	
	28 Howden	
20		McNabb 20
	19 Brisson	
	18 Kolesar	Hague 18
	17 Rondbjerg	
		Whitecloud 16
		Hutton 10
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 11	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	vs Los Angeles	11:00 PM
Fri, Oct 25	vs Ottawa	6:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 30	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 6	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Fri, Nov 8	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 11	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 15	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 20	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 21	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs Winnipeg	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 30	vs Utah	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 4	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	@ Edmonton	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 15	@ Minnesota	6:00 PM
Thu, Dec 19	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 27	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Dec 29	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Montreal	3:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Jan 9	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 12	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 17	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	vs St. Louis	6:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 24	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 2	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 8	@ Boston	3:30 PM
Sat, Feb 22	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 24	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 2	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 5	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 7	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ Buffalo	12:30 PM
Sun, Mar 16	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Boston	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 29	@ Nashville	6:30 PM
Tue, Apr 1	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 3	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 8	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM

PHOTO BY TRI-CITY STORM

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Adin Hill	28	6-4	215	Left	Comox, B.C.	Trade: SJ 8/29/22	Vegas	35	19-12-2	2.71	.909
Robin Lehner	33	6-4	250	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	Trade: Chi 2/24/20	Vegas	-	DNP	-	-
Carl Lindbom	21	6-0	165	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	222nd overall (2021)	Farjestad (Swe.)	26	17-7-0	2.12	.911
Pavel Moysevich	20	6-4	187	Left	Minsk, Blr.	83rd overall (2024)	SKA-Neva St. Petersburg (Rus.2)	19	10-7-2	2.31	.927
Ilya Samsonov	27	6-3	217	Left	Magnitogorsk, Rus.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Toronto	40	23-7-8	3.13	.890
Akira Schmid	24	6-5	205	Left	Bern, Sui.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Utica (AHL)	23	9-8-5	3.06	.894
Jesper Vikman	22	6-4	205	Left	Danderyd, Swe.	125th overall (2020)	Henderson (AHL)	19	6-9-2	3.48	.891
Cameron Whitehead	21	6-3	170	Left	Orleans, Ont.	128th overall (2022)	Northeastern (HE)	35	17-14-3	2.62	.917

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Daniil Chayka	21	6-3	200	Left	Moscow, Rus.	38th overall (2021)	Henderson (AHL)	64	1	6	7	26
Artur Cholach	21	6-2	198	Left	Lviv, Ukr.	190th overall (2021)	Sioux Falls (USHL)	54	4	11	15	71
Lukas Cormier	22	5-11	185	Left	Ste-Marie-de-Kent, N.B.	68th overall (2020)	Henderson (AHL)	58	4	16	20	33
Noah Ellis	22	6-2	191	Right	Urbandale, Iowa	184th overall (2020)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	21	0	3	3	6
Joe Fleming	21	6-1	215	Right	Wellesley, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 9/29/22	Savannah (ECHL)	65	3	18	21	122
Robert Hagg	29	6-2	210	Left	Uppsala, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	San Diego (AHL)	47	3	9	12	38
Nic Hague	25	6-6	240	Left	Kitchener, Ont.	34th overall (2017)	Vegas	73	2	10	12	43
Noah Hanifin	27	6-3	207	Left	Boston, Mass.	Trade: Cgy 3/7/24	Calgary/Vegas	80	13	34	47	24
Ben Hutton	31	6-3	201	Left	Brockville, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/28/21	Vegas	41	2	8	10	17
Arttu Karki	19	6-2	176	Left	Viiala, Fin.	96th overall (2023)	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	59	21	24	45	10
Kaedan Korczak	23	6-3	201	Right	Yorkton, Sask.	41st overall (2019)	Vegas	26	1	8	9	8
Dysin Mayo	28	6-0	189	Right	Victoria, B.C.	Trade: Ari 2/22/23	Henderson (AHL)	67	5	20	25	79
Brayden McNabb	33	6-4	215	Left	Davidson, Sask.	Expansion: LA 6/21/17	Vegas	82	4	22	26	37
Alex Pietrangelo	34	6-3	215	Right	King City, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 10/12/20	Vegas	64	4	29	33	24
Christoffer Sedoff	22	6-1	201	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/23	Henderson (AHL)	46	0	10	10	19
Shea Theodore	29	6-2	197	Left	Aldergrove, B.C.	Trade: Ana 6/21/17	Vegas	47	5	37	42	6
Zach Whitecloud	27	6-2	218	Right	Brandon, Man.	Free Agent: signed 3/8/18	Vegas	61	2	12	14	32
Abram Wiebe	21	6-2	187	Left	Mission, B.C.	209th overall (2022)	North Dakota (NCHC)	40	1	9	10	27

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Zach Aston-Reese	30	6-1	205	Left	Staten Island, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Grand Rapids (AHL)	61	14	16	30	53
Ivan Barbashev	28	6-0	198	Left	Moscow, Rus.	Trade: StL 2/26/23	Vegas	82	19	26	45	42
Jakub Brabenec	21	6-1	180	Left	Jihlava, Cze.	102nd overall (2021)	Henderson (AHL)	48	6	7	13	16
Brendan Brisson	22	6-0	191	Left	Los Angeles, Calif.	29th overall (2020)	Henderson (AHL)	52	19	19	38	42
Callahan Burke	27	5-10	183	Right	Boxborough, Mass.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Colorado (AHL)	57	16	23	39	25
Mathieu Cataford	19	5-11	191	Right	Chateauguay, Que.	77th overall (2023)	Halifax (QMJHL)	65	40	50	90	33
Jakub Demek	21	6-4	210	Left	Kosice, Svk.	128th overall (2021)	Henderson (AHL)	55	7	9	16	22
Ryder Donovan	23	6-3	184	Right	Duluth, Minn.	110th overall (2019)	St. Thomas (CCHA)	3	1	0	1	4
Jack Eichel	27	6-2	203	Right	North Chelmsford, Mass.	Trade: Buf 11/4/21	Vegas	63	31	37	68	27
Jordan Gustafson	20	5-11	191	Left	Ardrossan, Alta.	79th overall (2022)	Seattle (WHL)	32	12	16	28	16
Tomas Hertl	30	6-3	215	Left	Prague, Cze.	Trade: SJ 3/8/24	San Jose/Vegas	54	17	21	38	22
Brett Howden	26	6-2	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: NYR 7/17/21	Vegas	72	8	11	19	39
William Karlsson	31	6-0	190	Left	Marsta, Swe.	Expansion: Clb 6/21/17	Vegas	70	30	30	60	22
Tanner Laczynski	27	6-1	190	Right	Minooka, Ill.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	49	17	27	44	20
Ivan Morozov	24	6-1	178	Right	Khanty-Mansiysk, Rus.	61st overall (2018)	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	37	11	27	38	27
Gage Quinney	29	6-0	206	Left	Las Vegas, Nev.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Henderson (AHL)	39	8	20	28	4
Nicolas Roy	27	6-4	202	Right	Amos, Que.	Trade: Car 6/27/19	Vegas	70	13	28	41	29
Matyas Sapovaliv	20	6-4	200	Left	Prague, Cze.	48th overall (2022)	Saginaw (OHL)	54	19	43	62	22
Lucas Van Vliet	18	6-2	175	Left	Livonia, Mich.	197th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	51	13	9	22	14

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Trevor Connelly	18	6-0	156	Left	Tustin, Calif.	19th overall (2024)	Tri-City (USHL)	52	31	47	78	88
Grigori Denisenko	24	5-11	196	Right	Novosibirsk, Rus.	Waivers: Fla 10/7/23	Henderson (AHL)	65	20	36	56	50
Pavel Dorofeyev	23	6-1	194	Left	Nizhny Tagil, Rus.	79th overall (2019)	Vegas	47	13	11	24	12
Mason Geertsen	29	6-4	228	Left	Drayton Valley, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Henderson (AHL)	58	6	0	6	108
Jackson Hallum	22	5-11	163	Left	Eagan, Minn.	91st overall (2020)	Michigan (Big Ten)	9	3	5	8	0
Mason Morelli	28	6-1	198	Left	Minot, N.D.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Henderson (AHL)	56	13	16	29	39
Victor Olofsson	29	5-11	182	Left	Ornskoldsvik, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Buffalo	51	7	8	15	4
Trent Swick	20	6-7	214	Left	St. Catharines, Ont.	180th overall (2024)	Kitchener (OHL)	63	25	37	62	60

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Ben Hemmerling	20	5-11	174	Right	Edmonton, Alta.	177th overall (2022)	Everett (WHL)	65	30	61	91	74
Alexander Holtz	22	6-0	195	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	Trade: NJ 6/29/24	New Jersey	82	16	12	28	14
Keegan Kolesar	27	6-2	216	Right	Brandon, Man.	Trade: Clb 6/24/17	Vegas	79	8	10	18	49
Jonas Rondbjerg	25	6-2	202	Left	Horsholm, Den.	65th overall (2017)	Henderson (AHL)	48	9	16	25	10
Mark Stone	32	6-3	212	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Trade: Ott 2/25/19	Vegas	56	16	37	53	22
Tuomas Uronen	19	6-0	192	Right	Kerava, Fin.	192nd overall (2023)	Ottawa (OHL)	11	2	4	6	0

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

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BY BEN RABY

THE CAPITALS RETURNED TO the post-season after a one-year absence, though it was hardly conventional. Leaning heavily on netminder Charlie Lindgren, Washington overcame a seven-point deficit in early March and made the playoffs on the penultimate night of the regular season. Washington's minus-37 goal differential was the worst by a playoff team since 1991.

A feel-good story for a resilient bunch? Sure. Sustainable? Unlikely. That's why management went to work over the summer. In a span of 12 days, the Caps overhauled about one-third of the roster. Through trades and free agency, they added forwards Pierre-Luc Dubois, Andrew Mangiapane, Brandon Duhaime and Taylor Raddysh, blueliners Jakob Chychrun and Matt Roy and goalie Logan Thompson. The acquisitions are all in their 20s, which is a welcome infusion of youth. As Alex Ovechkin chases history, the Caps' goal has been to retool, not rebuild. The offseason moves ensure the playoff window remains open.

OFFENSE

Once a perennial top-10 offense, the Capitals were held to two goals or fewer in 44 games last season. They finished 28th in scoring, and their 2.63 goals per game was their lowest in 20 years. Ovechkin overcame a slow start (eight goals in 43 games) with 23 goals in his final 36 games. He then went pointless in a playoff series for the first time, with management suggesting the second-half surge left him gassed. Fresh faces Dubois and Mangiapane bolster the top six. Dylan Strome set career highs with 27 goals and 67 points. Connor McMichael chipped in 18 goals. Chychrun is a welcome addition after Chicago's

2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
40-31-11 (.555)

OVERTIME
4-6

SHOOTOUT
4-5

OVERALL
17th

OFFENSE
2.63 GPG (28th)

DEFENSE
3.07 GAA (16th)

POWER PLAY
20.6% (18th)

PENALTY KILL
79.0% (19th)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.38 (26th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.63 (20th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Ovechkin (19:13)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Carlson (25:54)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Spencer Carbery

GM
Brian MacLellan

ARENA
Capital One Arena

CAPACITY
18,573

AHL AFFILIATE
Hershey Bears

ECHL AFFILIATE
South Carolina Stingrays

PLAYOFF RECORD
4-16 (since 2020)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

JOHN CARLSON

blueline was the only one to score fewer goals than Washington's last season.

DEFENSE

Despite their anemic offense, the Caps showed a knack for winning low-scoring, grind-it-out affairs. Goaltending was key, but Washington also developed a disciplined game and gradually grasped coach Spencer Carbery's man-to-man defensive system. In his 15th NHL season, John Carlson led the league in average ice time with a career-high 25:54. The Caps want to spread some of those minutes around. Chychrun and Roy provide more balance on the back end and figure to alleviate some of Carlson's heavy lifting. Roy will play behind Carlson as a top-four right 'D' while adding size and a blue-collar game. Chychrun, Martin Fehervary and Rasmus Sandin will have a healthy competition on the left side.

GOALTENDING

Lindgren emerged as the undisputed No. 1, starting 19 of the final 22 games during Washington's playoff push. Arguably the team's MVP, Lindgren established career highs with 25 wins and six shutouts in 48 starts. He'll be pushed by Thompson, who proved in Vegas he's capable of carrying a load. The Caps have tremendous value in net, as the tandem combines for less than $1.9 million against the cap. Both are pending UFAs, however.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Capitals hope stability will lead to sustained power-play success. Due to injuries and performance, Washington's power play lacked consistent personnel last season. Through 41 games, the power play ranked 30th at 13.4 percent. Over the second half, it tied for first at 27.6 percent. The departed Nick Jensen and Beck Malenstyn were among Washington's most utilized penalty-killers. Their roles should be filled by newcomers Roy and Duhaime.

INTANGIBLES

Less than a year after franchise stalwart Nicklas Backstrom stepped away due to chronic hip issues, T.J. Oshie could be next (back injury). His leadership and ability to drag teammates into games can't be understated. Adapting without Oshie will be a challenge. Ovechkin's pursuit of Wayne Gretzky's goal-scoring record – he's 41 back – remains a motivator within the organization.

CUP ODDS

40/1

ROOKIES

Top prospect Ryan Leonard returned to Boston College for his sophomore year, but he's expected to turn pro once his NCAA season ends. The power forward and 2023 first-rounder could be an impactful late-season addition. Snipers Ivan Miroshnichenko and Ethen Frank will be among the first AHL recalls.

X-FACTOR

After a disappointing season in L.A., Dubois joins his fourth team in five years. Dubois' ice time was limited in Los Angeles, but a bigger role is envisioned in D.C. With a hefty contract and four-year no-move clause, Dubois must deliver.

THE BRASS

The Capitals bought what Carbery was selling last season. Chris Patrick was promoted to GM after 16 years with the franchise, while Brian MacLellan stays on as president of hockey ops. There remains a desire to thread the needle between building for the future and remaining competitive.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Alex Ovechkin	1. Pierre-Luc Dubois	1. Tom Wilson
2. Hendrix Lapierre	2. Dylan Strome	2. T.J. Oshie (INJURED)
3. Sonny Milano	3. Connor McMichael	3. Andrew Mangiapane
4. Brandon Duhaime	4. Nic Dowd	4. Aliaksei Protas
5. Ivan Miroshnichenko	5. Michael Sgarbossa	5. Taylor Raddysh

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. John Carlson	6. Trevor van Riemsdyk	1. Charlie Lindgren
2. Jakob Chychrun	7. Alexander Alexeyev	2. Logan Thompson
3. Matt Roy	8. Ethan Bear	3. Hunter Shepard
4. Martin Fehervary	9. Vincent Iorio	(INJURED)
5. Rasmus Sandin	10. Hardy Haman Aktell	(INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL)

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Nick Jensen, D; Darcy Kuemper, G; Max Pacioretty, LW; Beck Malenstyn, LW; Nicolas Aube-Kubel, RW

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Ryan Leonard
Pos RW **Age** 19
2023-24 Boston College (HE)
Swagger and skill in excess. Lethal shot. High IQ allows him to find soft spots in coverage.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Ivan Miroshnichenko
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Hershey (AHL)
Big-league shot and no lack of heart. Will need to put in effort to improve defensive game.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

3. Terik Parascak
Pos RW **Age** 18
2023-24 Prince George (WHL)
WHL's top rookie scorer has equal parts guile and elite skill. Trajectory has been impressive.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

4. Andrew Cristall
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Kelowna (WHL)
Effort to improve skating bodes well. Undersized scorer arrives in right place at right time.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

5. Cole Hutson
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 USA U18 (NTDP)
His size is a concern, but his scoring isn't. He's the all-time leader in points among NTDP defensemen.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Vincent Iorio
Pos D **Age** 21
2023-24 Hershey (AHL)
Great lessons in AHL with consecutive Calder Cups. Big, shutdown 'D' could get more physical.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

7. Ryan Chesley
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Minnesota (Big Ten)
Good as stay-at-home partner to free-roaming defenders. Limited offense, but he can blast pucks.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

8. Alexander Suzdalev
Pos LW **Age** 20
2023-24 Saskatoon (WHL)
Exceptional talent and impressive skater, but bulking up is necessary to play at top levels.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

9. Clay Stevenson
Pos G **Age** 25
2023-24 Hershey (AHL)
Played second-string role in Calder Cup run. Big frame allows him to be quiet in the crease.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

10. Leon Muggli
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Zug (Sui.)
Dependable defender doesn't have flash but consistently makes smart, high-percentage plays.
Expected NHL Arrival '29-30

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

FORWARDS **DEFENSEMEN**

100

80

68 Strome

63 Ovechkin

60 — 60 Dubois

58 McMichael

Carlson 49

41 Wilson

40 — 40 Mangiapane

39 Lapierre

Chychrun 37

33 Protas

28 Miroshnichenko

26 Milano

26 Raddysh

Sandin 26

Roy 23

22 Dowd

20 — 20 Oshie

van Riemsdyk 18

16 Duhaime

15 Sgarbossa

Fehervary 16

Bear 14

Alexeyev 6

0

SCHEDULE

Sat, Oct 12	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 15	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 17	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 19	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Wed, Oct 23	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 29	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 31	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 2	vs Columbus	5:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Wed, Nov 6	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 8	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 13	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 15	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 17	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 18	@ Utah	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 21	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 29	vs NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Sat, Nov 30	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 16	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Dec 20	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 22	vs Los Angeles	5:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 29	@ Detroit	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 31	vs Boston	12:30 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs NY Rangers	12:00 PM
Mon, Jan 6	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 8	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 10	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 25	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 6	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 9	vs Utah	12:30 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Sun, Feb 23	vs Edmonton	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Tampa Bay	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 3	vs Ottawa	6:30 PM
Wed, Mar 5	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 7	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	vs Seattle	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 11	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 13	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 15	@ San Jose	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 22	vs Florida	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 27	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs Buffalo	3:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 2	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Apr 4	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 6	@ NY Islanders	12:30 PM
Thu, Apr 10	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 15	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 17	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM

BRACE HEMMELGARN-USA TODAY SPORTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Garin Bjorklund	22	6-2	174	Left	Grande Prairie, Alta.	179th overall (2020)	South Carolina (ECHL)	27	14-11-1	3.33	.882
Chase Clark	22	6-6	202	Right	Williamsville, N.Y.	183rd overall (2021)	Sacred Heart (AHA)	19	8-10-1	3.03	.898
Mitchell Gibson	25	6-1	188	Left	Phoenixville, Pa.	124th overall (2018)	South Carolina (ECHL)	42	22-14-3	2.56	.899
Antoine Keller	19	6-2	176	Left	Dijon, Fra.	206th overall (2023)	Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)	37	17-12-2	3.05	.897
Nicholas Kempf	18	6-2	189	Left	Chicago, Ill.	114th overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	37	23-7-0	2.99	.897
Charlie Lindgren	30	6-2	179	Right	Lakeville, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/13/22	Washington	50	25-16-7	2.67	.911
Hunter Shepard	28	6-0	215	Left	Cohasset, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Hershey (AHL)	34	27-4-3	1.76	.929
Clay Stevenson	25	6-4	195	Left	Drayton Valley, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 3/28/22	Hershey (AHL)	36	24-10-2	2.06	.922
Logan Thompson	27	6-4	205	Right	Calgary, Alta.	Trade: Veg 6/29/24	Vegas	46	25-14-5	2.70	.908

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Alexander Alexeyev	24	6-4	213	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	31st overall (2018)	Washington	39	1	2	3	6
Cam Allen	19	6-0	194	Right	Toronto, Ont.	136th overall (2023)	Guelph (OHL)	25	2	7	9	23
Ethan Bear	27	5-11	197	Right	Regina, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 12/28/23	Washington	24	1	3	4	10
John Carlson	34	6-3	215	Right	Natick, Mass.	27th overall (2008)	Washington	82	10	42	52	40
Ryan Chesley	20	6-0	195	Right	St. Paul, Minn.	37th overall (2022)	Minnesota (Big Ten)	39	2	6	8	19
Jakob Chychrun	26	6-2	205	Left	Boca Raton, Fla.	Trade: Ott 7/1/24	Ottawa	82	14	27	41	60
Martin Fehervary	24	6-2	199	Left	Bratislava, Svk.	46th overall (2018)	Washington	66	3	13	16	24
Tobias Geisser	25	6-5	217	Left	Stans, Sui.	120th overall (2017)	Zug (Sui.)	35	1	11	12	4
David Gucciardi	21	6-1	185	Left	Toronto, Ont.	213th overall (2022)	Michigan State (Big Ten)	30	2	6	8	47
Hardy Haman Aktell	26	6-3	198	Left	Kage, Swe.	Free Agent: signed 4/27/23	Hershey (AHL)	55	2	9	11	33
Cole Hutson	18	5-10	165	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	43rd overall (2024)	USA U18 (NTDP)	51	15	36	51	52
Vincent Iorio	21	6-4	200	Right	Coquitlam, B.C.	55th overall (2021)	Hershey (AHL)	60	4	10	14	30
Brent Johnson	21	5-11	161	Right	St. Louis, Mo.	80th overall (2021)	Ohio State (Big Ten)	37	5	8	13	8
Joaquim Lemay	22	6-1	178	Left	St-Pierre-les-Becquets, Que.	119th overall (2021)	Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)	37	5	13	18	18
Dylan McIlrath	32	6-5	232	Right	Winnipeg, Man.	Free Agent: signed 7/28/21	Hershey (AHL)	58	3	6	9	100
Leon Muggli	18	6-0	165	Left	Cham, Sui.	52nd overall (2024)	Zug (Sui.)	42	3	9	12	18
Chase Priskie	28	6-0	185	Right	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/5/23	Hershey (AHL)	69	8	26	34	40
Matt Roy	29	6-2	210	Right	Detroit, Mich.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Los Angeles	81	5	20	25	42
Rasmus Sandin	24	5-11	182	Left	Uppsala, Swe.	Trade: Tor 2/28/23	Washington	68	3	20	23	24
Trevor van Riemsdyk	33	6-3	191	Right	Middletown, N.J.	Free Agent: signed 10/10/20	Washington	70	0	14	14	18

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nicklas Backstrom	36	6-1	202	Left	Gavle, Swe.	4th overall (2006)	Washington	8	0	1	1	2
Henrik Borgstrom	27	6-3	199	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	HV71 (Swe.)	50	16	18	34	33
Nic Dowd	34	6-1	193	Right	Huntsville, Ala.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/18	Washington	64	12	10	22	47
Pierre-Luc Dubois	26	6-4	225	Left	Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Que.	Trade: LA 6/19/24	Los Angeles	82	16	24	40	70
Ethen Frank	26	5-11	185	Right	Papillion, Neb.	Free Agent: signed 3/2/23	Hershey (AHL)	64	29	18	47	14
Haakon Hanelt	21	6-0	194	Left	Berlin, Ger.	151st overall (2021)	Cologne (Ger.)	38	1	1	2	2
Ryan Hofer	22	6-3	184	Left	Headingley, Man.	181st overall (2022)	Hershey (AHL)	40	4	4	8	13
Brett Hyland	21	6-0	170	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	200th overall (2023)	Brandon (WHL)	66	32	27	59	69
Hendrix Lapierre	22	6-0	180	Left	Gatineau, Que.	22nd overall (2020)	Washington	51	8	14	22	4
Alex Limoges	27	6-2	201	Left	Winchester, Va.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/23	Hershey (AHL)	62	24	27	51	18
Connor McMichael	23	6-0	180	Left	Ajax, Ont.	25th overall (2019)	Washington	80	18	15	33	34
Luke Philp	28	5-10	181	Right	Canmore, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Rockford (AHL)	15	2	4	6	6
Aliaksei Protas	23	6-6	225	Left	Vitebsk, Blr.	91st overall (2019)	Washington	78	6	23	29	8
Miroslav Satan	18	6-7	190	Left	East Amherst, N.Y.	212th overall (2024)	Bratislava Jr./SVK Jr. (Svk.)	27	14	17	31	20
Michael Sgarbossa	32	6-0	179	Left	Campbellville, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/18	Hershey (AHL)	44	7	36	43	24
Petr Sikora	18	5-11	172	Left	Karvina, Cze.	178th overall (2024)	Trinec Jr. (Cze.)	30	13	27	40	32
Dylan Strome	27	6-3	200	Left	Mississauga, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/14/22	Washington	82	27	40	67	22
Patrick Thomas	20	6-0	172	Left	Oakville, Ont.	104th overall (2023)	Brantford (OHL)	57	21	45	66	10

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Andrew Cristall	19	5-10	167	Left	Vancouver, B.C.	40th overall (2023)	Kelowna (WHL)	62	40	71	111	46
Andrew Mangiapane	28	5-10	184	Left	Toronto, Ont.	Trade: Cgy 6/27/24	Calgary	75	14	26	40	47
Eriks Mateiko	18	6-5	208	Left	Jelgava, Lat.	90th overall (2024)	Saint John (QMJHL)	49	23	20	43	20
Sonny Milano	28	6-0	194	Left	Massapequa, N.Y.	Free Agent: signed 10/15/22	Washington	49	15	8	23	10
Ivan Miroshnichenko	20	6-1	185	Right	Ussuriysk, Rus.	20th overall (2022)	Hershey (AHL)	47	9	16	25	13
Alex Ovechkin	39	6-3	238	Right	Moscow, Rus.	1st overall (2004)	Washington	79	31	34	65	20
Ludwig Persson	20	6-0	185	Left	Gothenburg, Swe.	85th overall (2022)	IPK (Fin.2)	48	10	45	55	2
Ilya Protas	18	6-5	198	Left	Vitebsk, Blr.	75th overall (2024)	Des Moines (USHL)	61	14	37	51	14
Alexander Suzdalev	20	6-2	172	Left	Khabarovsk, Rus.	70th overall (2022)	Saskatoon (WHL)	30	9	16	25	4

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Pierrick Dube	23	5-9	172	Right	Lyon, Fra.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/23	Hershey (AHL)	66	28	20	48	53
Brandon Duhaime	27	6-2	200	Left	Coral Springs, Fla.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Minnesota/Colorado	80	5	8	13	70
Zac Funk	21	6-0	210	Left	Coldstream, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/24	Prince George (WHL)	68	67	56	123	63
Ryan Leonard	19	6-0	192	Right	Northhampton, Mass.	8th overall (2023)	Boston College (HE)	41	31	29	60	38
T.J. Oshie	37	6-0	187	Right	Everett, Wash.	Trade: StL 7/2/15	Washington	52	12	13	25	44
Terik Parascak	18	6-0	173	Right	Lethbridge, Alta.	17th overall (2024)	Prince George (WHL)	68	43	62	105	41
Taylor Raddysh	26	6-3	198	Right	Caledon, Ont.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Chicago	73	5	9	14	22
Henrik Rybinski	23	6-1	172	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	Free Agent: signed 3/1/22	Hershey (AHL)	52	5	11	16	20
Spencer Smallman	28	6-1	198	Right	Summerside, P.E.I.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Colorado (AHL)	53	12	9	21	53
Riley Sutter	24	6-4	204	Right	Calgary, Alta.	93rd overall (2018)	Hershey (AHL)	66	9	14	23	57
Bogdan Trineyev	22	6-3	198	Right	Voronezh, Rus.	117th overall (2020)	Hershey (AHL)	63	9	7	16	18
Tom Wilson	30	6-4	220	Right	Toronto, Ont.	16th overall (2012)	Washington	74	18	17	35	133

WINNIPEG JETS

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2023-24 NUMBERS

RECORD
52-24-6 (.671)

OVERTIME
6-5

SHOOTOUT
0-1

OVERALL
4th

OFFENSE
3.16 (15th)

DEFENSE
2.41 (2nd)

POWER PLAY
18.8% (22nd)

PENALTY KILL
77.1% (21st)

EXPECTED GF/60
2.61 (12th)

EXPECTED GA/60
2.46 (10th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Scheifele (20:11)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Morrissey (24:11)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Scott Arniel

GM
Kevin Cheveldayoff

ARENA
Canada Life Centre

CAPACITY
15,321

AHL AFFILIATE
Manitoba Moose

ECHL AFFILIATE
Norfolk Admirals

PLAYOFF RECORD
7-15 (since 2020)

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY JARED CLINTON

FEW TEAMS FIND THEMSELVES looking for a new coach immediately following one of the best seasons in franchise history. But the changing of the guard on the Jets' bench was one of timing rather than displeasure with the departing Rick Bowness.

Bowness, a veteran of 2,726 games behind an NHL bench, announced his retirement following the season, opening the door for the Jets to elevate associate coach Scott Arniel to the top job. The challenge for Arniel isn't to replicate his predecessor's performance but to propel the Jets beyond the first round of the playoffs for only the second time since 2018.

Arniel will enter the season with a similar mix of veteran talent and a handful of up-and-comers, and the difference between success and failure could come down to the growth of some of Winnipeg's young guns. Meaningful steps forward and the Jets will contend. Stagnation, though, and the club could head in the opposite direction.

OFFENSE

The spotlight usually falls on top scorer Mark Scheifele, but last season was the sixth 30-goal campaign of Kyle Connor's career, and his 0.52 goals per game was better than that of all but 11 players to play at least half the season. Even if he improves on that mark, two players alone can't carry an offense. Gabe Vilardi needs to stay healthy, and Cole Perfetti must improve. As for offensive production from the blueline, do-it-all defender Josh Morrissey will again lead the charge. Cale Makar, Erik Karlsson and Quinn Hughes are the only defensemen with more points over the past two seasons.

DEFENSE

The Jets' focus in recent years has been on defending as a five-man unit, though that's had middling results. They've allowed the 18th-most shots and 15th-most high-danger chances at even strength over the past two seasons. Improving those numbers will require new structures and/or marked improvement by the team's blueliners. Dylan Samberg progressing into a reliable second-pairing defender would be among the best outcomes, and the rangy defender did look capable of moving up the depth chart last season. Winnipeg is also hoping this year marks Ville Heinola's arrival. The 20th pick overall in 2019 looked primed for NHL duty before an injury sidelined him last pre-season. If he reaches the next stage in his development, it would be a boon to the back end.

GOALTENDING

Pencil in Connor Hellebuyck for 60-plus starts. The reigning Vezina and Jennings Trophy winner has proven time and again his status as an elite regular-season goalie. But Winnipeg is ready to see Hellebuyck put his stamp on the playoffs. While he can't shoulder sole blame for the Jets' atrocious defensive showing in the 2024 post-season, he's posted a combined .905 save percentage and 3.13 goals-against average in the five playoff runs since Winnipeg went to the 2018 West final. Eric Comrie has the inside line on the No. 2 job, but there's competition in the form of Kaapo Kahkonen.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jets have been among the league's least penalized teams, finding themselves shorthanded 462 times over the past two seasons, and they allowed the ninth-fewest power-play goals per game over that span. As good as the penalty kill has been, though, the power play has ranged from mediocre to awful. The Jets scored at an 18.8-percent clip on the PP last season, the worst mark of any playoff team. The unit is in dire need of improvement.

INTANGIBLES

Winnipeg's core is well-established, as Scheifele, Connor, Morrissey, Hellebuyck, Nikolaj Ehlers and captain Adam Lowry have been together for the past seven seasons. A veteran core who can do much of the heavy lifting means the Jets have a reliable baseline for their performance, and it will give Arniel a solid foundation in his first season as coach.

CUP ODDS

26/1

ROOKIES

One-game cameos from Brad Lambert and Nikita Chibrikov at season's end gave a glimpse of two young, dynamic forwards on the bubble. Lambert, drafted 30th overall in 2022, led AHL Manitoba last season and was second-best among AHL rookies with 55 points. Chibrikov, selected 50th overall in 2021, was a revelation with 17 goals and 47 points in his first AHL campaign.

X-FACTOR

Have we seen the pinnacle for Scheifele – now 13 seasons and nearly 800 games into his career? While the Jets' fate is inextricably linked to Hellebuyck's play, they likewise stand to succeed or fail based on their No. 1 center's production.

THE BRASS

Arniel has spent the past 11 years in associate and assistant roles, and his last foray as bench boss was disappointing – he went 45-60-18 in 123 games with Columbus. Showcasing his growth as a coach will be critical to Winnipeg's success.

DEPTH CHART | 2024-25

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Kyle Connor	1. Mark Scheifele	1. Gabe Vilardi
2. Nikolaj Ehlers	2. Vladislav Namestnikov	2. Cole Perfetti
3. Nino Niederreiter	3. Adam Lowry	3. Alex Iafallo
4. Morgan Barron	4. David Gustafsson	4. Mason Appleton
5. Rasmus Kupari	5. Jaret Anderson-Dolan	5. Brad Lambert

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Josh Morrissey	6. Ville Heinola	1. Connor Hellebuyck
2. Dylan DeMelo	7. Logan Stanley	2. Eric Comrie
3. Neal Pionk	8. Haydn Fleury	3. Kaapo Kahkonen
4. Dylan Samberg	9. Elias Salomonsson	
5. Colin Miller	10. Simon Lundmark	

■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Sean Monahan, C; Brenden Dillon, D; Tyler Toffoli, RW; Laurent Brossoit, G; Nate Schmidt, D

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Rutger McGroarty
Pos RW **Age** 20
2023-24 Michigan (Big Ten)
Top-tier NCAA playmaker and solid two-way player. Contract impasse likely leading to trade.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

2. Colby Barlow
Pos LW **Age** 19
2023-24 Owen Sound (OHL)
Heavy shot with a split-second release. Will go to the hard areas without a second thought.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

3. Nikita Chibrikov
Pos RW **Age** 21
2023-24 Manitoba (AHL)
Blew away expectations after arriving from KHL. Slippery playmaker scored in his NHL debut.
Expected NHL Arrival '26-27

4. Brad Lambert
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Manitoba (AHL)
Elite speed and plays with chip on his shoulder. Second in scoring among AHL rookies last season.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

5. Alfons Freij
Pos D **Age** 18
2023-24 Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)
Effortless skater can push the pace, but he needs to start embracing physical side of game.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

6. Ville Heinola
Pos D **Age** 23
2023-24 Manitoba (AHL)
Injury cost him half the season, and logjam prevented NHL minutes. It's time to make the jump.
Expected NHL Arrival '24-25

7. Chaz Lucius
Pos C **Age** 21
2023-24 Manitoba (AHL)
Development hindered by injuries, but his past performance is indicative of his bountiful toolbox.
Expected NHL Arrival '25-26

8. Elias Salomonsson
Pos D **Age** 20
2023-24 Skelleftea (Swe.)
Immaculate edgework helps him transition puck up ice quickly. Will fight for top-four AHL spot.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

9. Kevin He
Pos LW **Age** 18
2023-24 Niagara (OHL)
Fluid skating stride and can release powerful shot on the fly. Plays with physicality, too.
Expected NHL Arrival '28-29

10. Danny Zhilkin
Pos C **Age** 20
2023-24 Manitoba (AHL)
Difficult rookie pro season, but consistent junior producer has upside. Deceptive puck skills.
Expected NHL Arrival '27-28

POINTS-O-METER

2024-25 PROJECTIONS

	FORWARDS	DEFENSEMEN
100		
80	76 Connor	Morrissey 73
	71 Scheifele	
60	60 Ehlers	
	53 Vilardi	
	50 Perfetti	
	45 Niederreiter	
40		
	34 Iafallo 34 Lowry 34 Namestnikov	Pionk 33
	30 Appleton	
		Heinola 25
		DeMelo 22
20	21 Kupari 20 Barron	
		Samberg 17
	11 Jonsson-Fjallby 10 Anderson-Dolan 10 Gustafsson	Miller 10
		Stanley 7 Fleury 6
0		

SCHEDULE

Wed, Oct 9	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 11	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13	vs Minnesota	6:00 PM
Fri, Oct 18	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 20	vs Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Tue, Oct 22	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 24	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 26	@ Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 28	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Oct 30	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 1	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 3	vs Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Tue, Nov 5	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 7	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 9	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 12	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 14	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 16	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 19	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 22	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 23	@ Nashville	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 25	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 27	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 29	@ Vegas	8:30 PM
Sun, Dec 1	@ Dallas	4:30 PM
Tue, Dec 3	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 5	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 7	@ Chicago	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 8	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 10	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 12	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 14	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 17	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Wed, Dec 18	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 23	@ Toronto	2:00 PM
Sat, Dec 28	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 30	vs Nashville	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 31	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 2	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 4	vs Detroit	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 10	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 11	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 16	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 18	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 20	@ Utah	9:30 PM
Wed, Jan 22	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 24	vs Utah	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 26	vs Calgary	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 30	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 1	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 7	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 22	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 24	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 26	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 27	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 1	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 4	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 6	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 7	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 9	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 11	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 14	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 16	@ Seattle	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 18	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 20	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 23	vs Buffalo	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 25	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 28	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 30	vs Vancouver	3:00 PM
Tue, Apr 1	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thu, Apr 3	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 5	@ Utah	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 7	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 10	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 12	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 13	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 16	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM

NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

WINNIPEG JETS

GOALIES	AGE	HT.	WT.	CATCHES	BORN	ACQUIRED	2023-24	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SP
Eric Comrie	29	6-1	190	Left	Edmonton, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	Buffalo	10	2-7-0	3.69	.874
Domenic DiVincentiis	20	6-2	191	Left	Toronto, Ont.	207th overall (2022)	North Bay (OHL)	42	27-9-4	3.13	.895
Connor Hellebuyck	31	6-4	207	Left	Commerce, Mich.	130th overall (2012)	Winnipeg	60	37-19-4	2.39	.921
Kaapo Kahkonen	28	6-2	217	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	Free Agent: signed 7/1/24	San Jose/New Jersey	37	7-24-3	3.64	.898
Thomas Milic	21	6-0	175	Left	New Westminster, B.C.	151st overall (2023)	Manitoba (AHL)	33	19-9-2	2.72	.900
Logan Neaton	25	6-3	190	Left	Brighton, Mich.	144th overall (2019)	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	23	4-4-1	3.24	.894

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	DRAFTED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Tyrel Bauer	22	6-3	207	Right	Calgary, Alta.	164th overall (2020)	Manitoba (AHL)	56	2	5	7	83
Garrett Brown	20	6-2	178	Right	Buffalo, N.Y.	99th overall (2022)	Denver (NCHC)	8	0	4	4	14
Dylan Coghlan	26	6-2	208	Right	Duncan, B.C.	Trade: Car 7/6/24	Springfield (AHL)	61	16	25	41	40
Dylan DeMelo	31	6-1	194	Right	London, Ont.	Trade: Ott 2/18/20	Winnipeg	82	3	28	31	36
Haydn Fleury	28	6-4	207	Left	Carlyle, Sask.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Tampa Bay	24	1	4	5	20
Alfons Freij	18	6-1	187	Left	Solvesborg, Swe.	37th overall (2024)	Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)	40	14	19	33	14
Ville Heinola	23	6-0	181	Left	Honkajoki, Fin.	20th overall (2019)	Manitoba (AHL)	41	10	17	27	24
Dmitry Kuzmin	21	5-10	188	Left	Kholstovo, Blr.	82nd overall (2021)	Norfolk (ECHL)	24	2	7	9	4
Simon Lundmark	23	6-2	202	Right	Stockholm, Swe.	51st overall (2019)	Manitoba (AHL)	67	5	12	17	22
Colin Miller	31	6-1	200	Right	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	Trade: NJ 3/8/24	New Jersey/Winnipeg	46	4	5	9	26
Josh Morrissey	29	6-0	195	Left	Calgary, Alta.	13th overall (2013)	Winnipeg	81	10	59	69	44
Neal Pionk	29	6-0	190	Right	Omaha, Neb.	Trade: NYR 6/17/19	Winnipeg	82	5	28	33	63
Elias Salomonsson	20	6-0	172	Right	Skelleftea, Swe.	55th overall (2022)	Skelleftea (Swe.)	31	2	9	11	58
Dylan Samberg	25	6-4	216	Left	Saginaw, Minn.	43rd overall (2017)	Winnipeg	78	1	17	18	43
Logan Stanley	26	6-7	231	Left	Waterloo, Ont.	18th overall (2016)	Winnipeg	25	1	1	2	36

CENTERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	DRAFTED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jaret Anderson-Dolan	25	5-11	200	Left	Calgary, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/2/24	Los Angeles/Nashville	31	1	3	4	6
Mason Appleton	28	6-3	194	Right	Green Bay, Wis.	Trade: Sea 3/20/22	Winnipeg	82	14	22	36	26
Morgan Barron	25	6-4	220	Left	Halifax, N.S.	Trade: NYR 3/21/22	Winnipeg	80	11	7	18	23
Harrison Blaisdell	23	5-11	181	Left	Sheffield, Gbr.	134th overall (2019)	New Hampshire (HE)	32	11	3	14	6
Parker Ford	24	5-9	181	Right	Wakefield, R.I.	Free Agent: signed 3/25/23	Manitoba (AHL)	72	18	23	41	57
David Gustafsson	24	6-2	196	Left	Tingsryd, Swe.	60th overall (2018)	Winnipeg	39	3	4	7	0
Jacob Julien	20	6-4	181	Left	London, Ont.	146th overall (2023)	London (OHL)	67	29	49	78	53
Rasmus Kupari	24	6-2	201	Right	Kotka, Fin.	Trade: LA 6/27/23	Winnipeg	28	0	1	1	4
Brad Lambert	20	6-1	173	Right	Lahti, Fin.	30th overall (2022)	Manitoba (AHL)	64	21	34	55	38
Markus Loponen	18	6-1	186	Left	Oulu, Fin.	155th overall (2024)	Karpat Jr. (Fin.)	45	25	29	54	31
Adam Lowry	31	6-5	210	Left	St. Louis, Mo.	67th overall (2011)	Winnipeg	81	12	23	35	57
Chaz Lucius	21	6-2	177	Right	Lawrence, Kan.	18th overall (2021)	Manitoba (AHL)	17	2	11	13	6
Vladislav Namestnikov	31	6-0	181	Left	Zhukovskiy, Rus.	Trade: SJ 3/3/23	Winnipeg	78	11	26	37	37
Henri Nikkanen	23	6-5	217	Left	Mikkeli, Fin.	113th overall (2019)	Manitoba (AHL)	57	7	5	12	16
Cole Perfetti	22	5-11	185	Left	Whitby, Ont.	10th overall (2020)	Winnipeg	71	19	19	38	12
Mark Scheifele	31	6-3	207	Right	Kitchener, Ont.	7th overall (2011)	Winnipeg	74	25	47	72	57
Mason Shaw	25	5-10	184	Left	Lloydminster, Alta.	Free Agent: signed 7/3/24	Minnesota	20	1	2	3	34
Dominic Toninato	30	6-2	201	Left	Duluth, Minn.	Free Agent: signed 10/10/20	Manitoba (AHL)	37	7	13	20	28
Gabriel Vilardi	25	6-3	216	Right	Kingston, Ont.	Trade: LA 6/27/23	Winnipeg	47	22	14	36	14
Fabian Wagner	20	5-10	170	Left	Nykoping, Swe.	175th overall (2022)	Linkoping (Swe.)	41	1	5	6	4
Kieron Walton	18	6-6	211	Left	Toronto, Ont.	187th overall (2024)	Sudbury (OHL)	65	18	25	43	18
Austin Wong	24	5-11	189	Right	Calgary, Alta.	215th overall (2018)	Kunlun (KHL)	18	3	0	3	21
Danil Zhilkin	20	6-1	192	Left	Moscow, Rus.	77th overall (2022)	Manitoba (AHL)	44	2	5	7	22

LEFT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	DRAFTED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Colby Barlow	19	6-0	190	Left	Orillia, Ont.	18th overall (2023)	Owen Sound (OHL)	50	40	18	58	27
Kyle Connor	27	6-1	183	Left	Shelby Township, Mich.	17th overall (2015)	Winnipeg	65	34	27	61	6
Nikolaj Ehlers	28	6-0	172	Left	Aalborg, Den.	9th overall (2014)	Winnipeg	82	25	36	61	29
Kevin He	18	5-11	182	Left	Beijing, Chn.	109th overall (2024)	Niagara (OHL)	64	31	22	53	66
Alex Iafallo	30	6-0	201	Left	Eden, N.Y.	Trade: LA 6/27/23	Winnipeg	82	11	16	27	6
Axel Jonsson-Fjallby	26	6-1	189	Left	Stockholm, Swe.	Waivers: Wsh 10/10/22	Manitoba (AHL)	41	12	18	30	4
Daniel Torgersson	22	6-3	199	Left	Hono, Swe.	40th overall (2020)	Manitoba (AHL)	52	1	8	9	12
Kristian Vesalainen	25	6-3	207	Left	Helsinki, Fin.	24th overall (2017)	HIFK (Fin.)	58	14	23	37	10

RIGHT WINGERS	AGE	HT.	WT.	SHOOTS	BORN	DRAFTED	2023-24	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Nikita Chibrikov	21	5-10	170	Left	Moscow, Rus.	50th overall (2021)	Manitoba (AHL)	70	17	30	47	53
Connor Levis	19	6-1	187	Right	Vancouver, B.C.	210th overall (2023)	Kamloops/Vancouver (WHL)	65	24	31	55	16
Rutger McGroarty	20	6-0	200	Left	Lincoln, Neb.	14th overall (2022)	Michigan (Big Ten)	36	16	36	52	6
Zach Nehring	19	6-3	179	Right	Minot, N.D.	82nd overall (2023)	Sioux Falls (USHL)	44	9	5	14	36
Nino Niederreiter	32	6-2	218	Left	Chur, Sui.	Trade: Nsh 2/25/23	Winnipeg	77	18	16	34	34
Dmitri Rashevsky	23	6-1	165	Left	St. Petersburg, Rus.	146th overall (2021)	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	67	24	19	43	20

JEREMY SWAYMAN

NHL

INTERNATIONAL MEN OF MYSTERY

AT LEAST ONE PLAYER ON EVERY TEAM WILL BOOM OR BUST THIS SEASON

BY MURRAY TOWNSEND

WHY ALL THE mystery? We go to the trouble of analyzing players until we think we've got them pegged, and then they don't do what we think they would. Funny, that.

Mind you, we said last year that Connor Bedard would score 74 points, and if you project his total over the games he missed, it would be, you guessed it, 74. No international man of mystery there, but there are plenty of others. Here's one per team.

JOHN GIBSON, ANA

A top-flight goalie for many years. And then he wasn't. The mystery is who's to blame. He's not old at 31, so does the responsibility lie with Gibson or the terrible teams he's been forced to play behind? As Anaheim improves, we'll find out.

JEREMY SWAYMAN, BOS

Part of a dynamic duo for three years with Linus Ullmark. Did it work so well because both were so talented or because alternating allowed them to stay fresh? With Ullmark gone, it'll be a much heavier workload for Swayman now.

PEYTON KREBS, BUF

Buffalo didn't acquire the Vegas first-rounder in the Jack Eichel deal to be a 17-point scorer. He doesn't have a top-six role and hasn't been good in the bottom six. Since there are no other sixes, he's going to have to show something…and soon.

JONATHAN HUBERDEAU, CGY

The points he's earned in two Calgary seasons (107) don't even equal the points he got in his last season in Florida (115). It may take a change of scenery, but surely elite playmakers don't become this bad so quickly.

JESPERI KOTKANIEMI, CAR

After finally showing promise in 2022-23 with 43 points, he continued to produce early in 2023-24 with 15 points in his first 21 games. But in his next 58 games, he only had 12 points, and then just one point in 11 playoff games. That's not nearly good enough for a player making $5 million per season.

LUKAS REICHEL, CHI

After showing breakout signs, he had a disappointing season and had to be sent down to the minors. He gets another chance to make good this year.

JONATHAN DROUIN, COL

Will the real Jonathan Drouin please stand up? Is it the one who scored 19 goals last year or the one who popped just two the previous season?

PATRIK LAINE, CLB

He played just 18 games last year. It's easy to forget he once scored 44 goals in a season – and it's hard to picture him scoring that many again.

SAM STEEL, DAL

He put up a 50-goal, 131-point season in junior after Anaheim selected him in the first round. But three times he hasn't been tendered a qualifying offer, making him a free agent each time. Is his time up, or is there a glimmer of hope?

VILLE HUSSO, DET

Since winning the top job in Detroit, he's been anything but the top guy. Injuries are a factor, but when you earn $4.75 million, you should outplay the supposed backup, Alex Lyon, who earns $900,000.

DYLAN HOLLOWAY, EDM

Talent isn't the question. The problem is that there's nowhere for him to go. The power play is already too crowded. But what if he did get a chance in a scoring role? That's the mystery.

AARON EKBLAD, FLA

He's always been a good goal-scorer for a defenseman, but he's never been a big point-producer. Now, his ice time is diminishing, so can we even count on the goals anymore?

ARTHUR KALIYEV, LA

Usually, when you ask for a trade, you've done something to warrant interest from other teams. He hasn't done that, but

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

ALEX OVECHKIN

it doesn't mean he won't blossom with a change of scenery.

MARCUS JOHANSSON, MIN

Playing for six teams in the past eight years means he's either in high demand or teams are willing to get rid of him. In his past seven seasons, he's surpassed 30 points just once. He was a higher scorer prior to that, with five seasons between 44 and 58 points.

RAFAEL HARVEY-PINARD, MTL

After exploding onto the scene with 14 goals in 34 games, he dropped off last year, with just two goals in 45 games. Injuries were a factor, but even so, it's very difficult to be that unproductive, which doesn't bode well for his future.

CODY GLASS, NSH

In his 2017 draft year, he was hyped as the next Mark Scheifele. We haven't seen anything close to that. Yet.

CURTIS LAZAR, NJ

After being a disappointment in Ottawa, Calgary, Buffalo, Boston and Vancouver, the 2013 first-rounder was not a disappointment in New Jersey.

KYLE PALMIERI, NYI

A career-high 30-goal season at 33 is always suspicious. If everything is straightened out now as last season indicated, that's great. But it's just hard to get on board.

KAAPO KAKKO, NYR

He's shown flashes, but not often enough. Patience can pay off – as the Rangers found out with Alexis Lafreniere last year – but for our purposes, we've been patient long enough.

LINUS ULLMARK, OTT

Is Ottawa a situation where no goalie can be successful? Or can Ullmark actually be a savior?

SEAN COUTURIER, PHI

Is it over or not? Healthy scratches. Dismal production. And more injuries than at which you can shake a hockey stick. But he's won the Selke Trophy and produced 75-plus points. At 31, there's still time for him to get back there.

JESSE PULJUJARVI, PIT

Teams keep giving him a shot and waiting for the magic to happen. And waiting. And waiting. And waiting.

MACKENZIE BLACKWOOD, SJ

Young goalies are supposed to get better, not worse. In his first two seasons, Blackwood had save percentages of .918 and .915. His past two seasons: .893 and .899. Will he stabilize when the Sharks get better defensively and start to win?

PHILIPP GRUBAUER, SEA

Prior to joining Seattle: .920 SP. In three Seattle seasons: .893 SP. He's only 32, so it's not age-related. And it's not team-related, because Joey Daccord posted a .916 SP last season. So what gives?

JUSTIN FAULK. STL

Three seasons ago, he scored 16 goals. Then 11. Then just two last year. He's been up and down throughout his career, four times scoring at least 15 goals. Can he rebound once again to become a regular contributor from the blueline?

JAKE GUENTZEL, TB

He's proven he can score without Sidney Crosby, right? Those 17 games with Carolina are too small of a sample size. Tampa Bay has some elite potential linemates, but he's never had more than 40 goals.

NICK ROBERTSON, TOR

He's looked great at times, but then he gets hurt again, so we still can't get a read on whether or not he can consistently produce.

BARRETT HAYTON, UTH

After a semi-breakout season in 2022-23, where he scored 19 goals and 43 points, he only played 33 games last season. And they were not good games: he had just three goals and 10 points.

VASILY PODKOLZIN, VAN

After a nice rookie season in 2021-22, hopes were high. But in his second year, he was poor in 39 games and sent to the minors. Last year, he played 19 games without scoring a goal and again spent a lot of time in the AHL. The 10th overall pick from 2019 will get another chance to stick this year.

ALEX PIETRANGELO, VEG

He still gets a boatload of ice time, but he's not the top option for the power play, and he doesn't shoot the puck like he used to. Three years ago, he had 227 shots in 80 games. Last year, he had 141 in 64. His goals dropped from 13 to four.

ALEX OVECHKIN, WSH

Perhaps the biggest mystery is whether Ovechkin will score 42 goals to take over the all-time lead *this* season. He had 23 second-half goals last year after just eight in the first half.

RASMUS KUPARI, WPG

Prior to the 2018 draft, his Finnish coach said he was a mix of Jesse Puljujarvi and Sebastian Aho. It's looking like a bigger heap of the former. Twenty-eight games without a goal last year, and previous seasons weren't much better. This year may be his last chance to make a mark in the NHL.

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

ASK THE EXPERTS

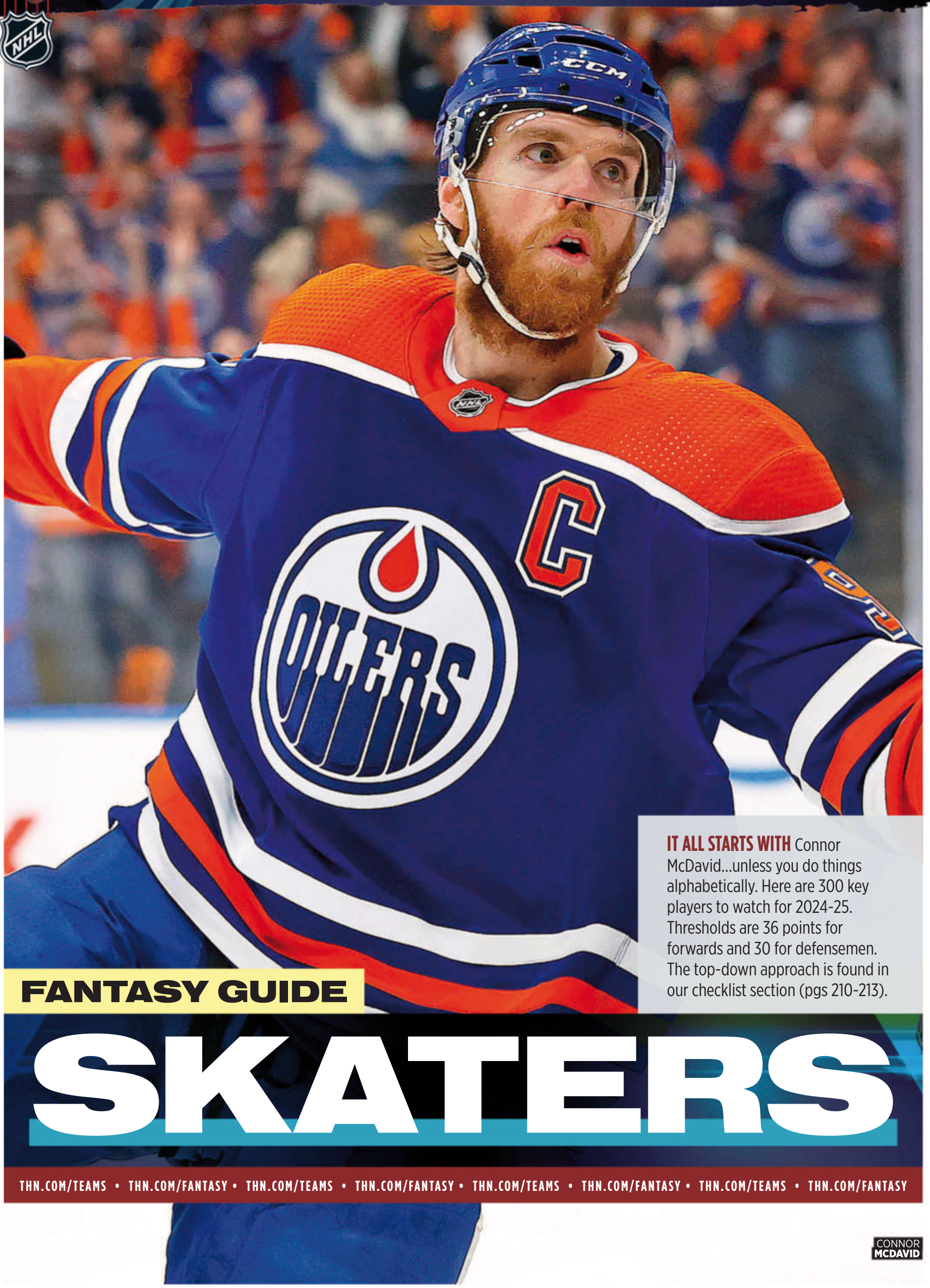
THN STAFF ANSWER 20 KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 2024-25 NHL SEASON

RYAN KENNEDY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EDWARD FRASER
MANAGING EDITOR

		RYAN KENNEDY	EDWARD FRASER
1	How many points for Connor McDavid in 2024-25?	125	145
2	How many points for Connor Bedard in 2024-25?	80	87
3	How many goals for Auston Matthews in 2024-25?	65	57
4	Who puts up more points in 2024-25: Nikita Kucherov, Nathan MacKinnon or Artemi Panarin?	Nathan MacKinnon	Nathan MacKinnon
5	Who puts up more points in 2024-25: Leon Draisaitl, David Pastrnak or Mikko Rantanen?	David Pastrnak	Leon Draisaitl
6	Who puts up more points in 2024-25: Brady Tkachuk or Matthew Tkachuk?	Brady Tkachuk	Brady Tkachuk
7	Who scores more goals in 2024-25: Kirill Kaprizov, Brayden Point or Sam Reinhart?	Kirill Kaprizov	Kirill Kaprizov
8	Which defenseman puts up more points in 2024-25: Evan Bouchard, Quinn Hughes or Cale Makar?	Cale Makar	Cale Makar
9	Which rookie will lead all NHL freshmen in points?	Logan Stankoven	Logan Stankoven
10	Who's your sleeper pick?	Jiri Kulich	Patrick Kane
11	Who's your bust pick?	Evgeni Malkin	Steven Stamkos
12	Which goalie wins more games in 2024-25: Thatcher Demko, Jake Oettinger or Stuart Skinner?	Stuart Skinner	Jake Oettinger
13	Which NHL team wins the Presidents' Trophy in 2024-25?	Dallas	Carolina
14	Which 2023-24 playoff team is most likely to miss the post-season in 2024-25?	Los Angeles	Washington
15	Who are your top three teams in 2024-25?	Dallas, NY Rangers, Colorado	Carolina, Dallas, Colorado
16	Who are your bottom three teams in 2024-25?	San Jose, Montreal, Chicago	San Jose, Chicago, Calgary
17	Who is the first coach fired in 2024-25?	Mike Sullivan	Mike Sullivan
18	Which star player do you expect to be traded in 2024-25?	Sean Couturier	Mitch Marner
19	Who beats whom in the 2025 Stanley Cup final?	Dallas beats New Jersey	Dallas beats Toronto
20	What's the next NHL team to win the Stanley Cup for the first time?	Vancouver	Utah

MICHAEL TRAIKOS MANAGING EDITOR (DIGITAL)	BRIAN COSTELLO EDITOR	NICK EMANUELLI EDITOR	SAM McCAIG EDITOR
147	132	142	140
94	94	89	82
57	59	60	70
Nathan MacKinnon	Nathan MacKinnon	Nathan MacKinnon	Nathan MacKinnon
Leon Draisaitl	Leon Draisaitl	Leon Draisaitl	Leon Draisaitl
Matthew Tkachuk	Matthew Tkachuk	Matthew Tkachuk	Brady Tkachuk
Brayden Point	Sam Reinhart	Kirill Kaprizov	Kirill Kaprizov
Cale Makar	Cale Makar	Cale Makar	Cale Makar
Cutter Gauthier	Logan Stankoven	Matvei Michkov	Logan Stankoven
Matvei Michkov	Jeff Skinner	Luke Evangelista	Anton Lundell
Macklin Celebrini	Alex Ovechkin	Chandler Stephenson	Steven Stamkos
Thatcher Demko	Jake Oettinger	Stuart Skinner	Jake Oettinger
Florida	Edmonton	Carolina	NY Rangers
NY Islanders	NY Islanders	Washington	Washington
Florida, Colorado, New Jersey	Dallas, Edmonton, NY Rangers	Carolina, Dallas, Edmonton	NY Rangers, Dallas, Edmonton
San Jose, Anaheim, Calgary	San Jose, Anaheim, Columbus	San Jose, Columbus, Anaheim	San Jose, Columbus, Chicago
Mike Sullivan	John Tortorella	Mike Sullivan	John Tortorella
Mitch Marner	Claude Giroux	Patrik Laine	Mitch Marner
Colorado beats New Jersey	Dallas beats NY Rangers	Carolina beats Edmonton	Dallas beats NY Rangers
Vancouver	Utah	Utah	Vancouver



IT ALL STARTS WITH Connor McDavid...unless you do things alphabetically. Here are 300 key players to watch for 2024-25. Thresholds are 36 points for forwards and 30 for defensemen. The top-down approach is found in our checklist section (pgs 210-213).

FANTASY GUIDE

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CONNOR MCDAVID

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

SKATERS

87 SEBASTIAN AHO

GP 77 G 37 A 50

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $9,750,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
78-36-53-89-36

Consistently good for 35-plus goals. That alone is great, but he'll also pop 50-plus assists.

40 RASMUS ANDERSSON

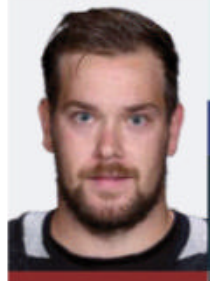
GP 80 G 8 A 32

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $4,550,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
78-9-30-39-47

He's still an option on the PP point, but he's no longer the top option all the time.



53 VIKTOR ARVIDSSON

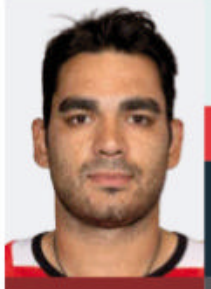
GP 77 G 22 A 31

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
18-6-9-15-14

Frequent injuries are a problem. He only played 18 games last year, so...he's well rested.



37 ANDREAS ATHANASIOU

GP 70 G 15 A 22

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $4,250,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
28-2-7-9-7

Even if he stays healthy, which is far from guaranteed, his upside just isn't really worth it.

38 MIKAEL BACKLUND

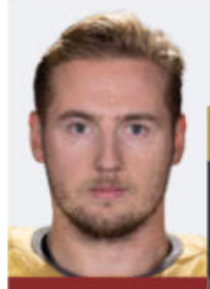
GP 82 G 14 A 24

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
82-15-24-39-24

Five times he's played 82 games. Seven times he's been between 39 and 47 points.



47 IVAN BARBASHEV

GP 81 G 22 A 25

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-19-26-45-42

He's got the potential to score 20 goals, but that's about as good as it's going to get.

86 ALEKSANDER BARKOV

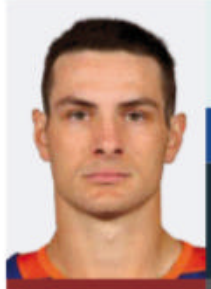
GP 78 G 25 A 61

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $10,000,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
73-23-57-80-24

His best asset is playmaking – ask Sam Reinhart (57 goals). That hurts his own goal total.



71 MAT BARZAL

GP 80 G 20 A 51

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $9,150,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
80-23-57-80-34

Hit 80 points for the second time, but he didn't go above 62 in the five years in between.

70 DRAKE BATHERSON

GP 82 G 30 A 40

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $4,975,000

POS RW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-28-38-66-42

Improves yearly. With top-six and power-play time, he should hit 30 goals this season.

80 CONNOR BEDARD

GP 80 G 35 A 45

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS C **AGE** 19
2023-24 STATS
68-22-39-61-28

It's a good thing he doesn't need much help, because there isn't much help in Chicago.

64 MATTY BENIERS

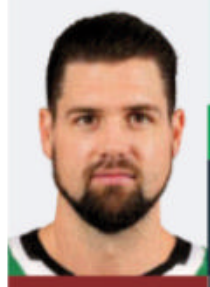
GP 80 G 25 A 39

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: RFA

POS C **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
77-15-22-37-20

Call it a sophomore slump, but he's in line for a huge correction. A nice sleeper this year.



51 JAMIE BENN

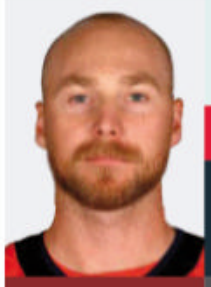
GP 82 G 20 A 31

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
82-21-39-60-41

In final year of his contract. The 35-year-old hasn't missed a game in three years.



39 SAM BENNETT

GP 72 G 18 A 21

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $4,425,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
69-20-21-41-100

Far greater value to his team than to us. He's injured a lot and has never had 50 points.

43 ZACH BENSON

GP 78 G 18 A 25

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS LW **AGE** 19
2023-24 STATS
71-11-19-30-36

An NHL season under his belt, and he's only 19. Twenty goals before age 20 is a possibility.

46 TYLER BERTUZZI

GP 80 G 21 A 25

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
80-21-22-43-53

Middle-six player put up middle-six numbers to add to other attributes.

SKATERS

BJORKSTRAND-CAUFIELD

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

52

GP 81 G 22 A 30

OLIVER BJORKSTRAND

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $5,400,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
82-20-39-59-12

Power-play fixture should score more but usually ends up around 20 goals.

67

GP 72 G 32 A 35

BROCK BOESER

VANCOUVER | CAP HIT: $6,650,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
81-40-33-73-14

On Jan. 1, he had 24 goals (in 36 games), third-most in the NHL, before slowing down.

73

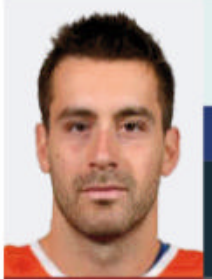
GP 79 G 31 A 42

MATT BOLDY

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
75-29-40-69-48

Forty-two points in the second half of 2023-24 indicates there's more to come.



77

GP 81 G 15 A 62

EVAN BOUCHARD

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $3,900,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
81-18-64-82-32

His breakout season established him as a premier offensive defenseman.

80

GP 82 G 30 A 50

JESPER BRATT

NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS LW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-27-56-83-12

A sixth-round pick who was stuck in the 30s for years, now 70-plus points for three years.

31

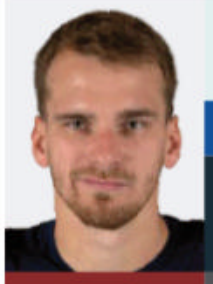
GP 77 G 8 A 23

JONAS BRODIN

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
62-7-20-27-16

He's injured a lot and isn't a high scorer, but he can still pot a few goals from the blueline.



69

GP 79 G 28 A 41

PAVEL BUCHNEVICH

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $5,800,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
80-27-36-63-48

His three best years have been in St. Louis. An integral part of the Blues' offense.

59

GP 80 G 23 A 36

MICHAEL BUNTING

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
81-19-36-55-57

Averaged almost a point per game after trade to Pittsburgh. Fits well in the Pens' top six.

40

GP 70 G 15 A 25

ANDRE BURAKOVSKY

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
49-7-9-16-14

The only reason to take him is as a late-round spec pick. But injuries also seem inevitable.

33

GP 82 G 7 A 26

BRENT BURNS

CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $5,280,000

POS D **AGE** 39
2023-24 STATS
82-10-33-43-20

Doesn't miss any games, but he's 39 and has lost the top PP spot to Gostisbehere.

65

GP 80 G 26 A 39

QUINTON BYFIELD

LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
80-20-35-55-42

There's much more to come with more consistency. Just two goals in final 28 games.

35

GP 75 G 12 A 23

BOWEN BYRAM

BUFFALO | CAP HIT: $3,850,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
73-11-18-29-53

The power-play point position is a little crowded in Buffalo, but he'll still get his goals.

49

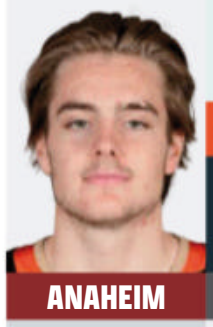
GP 78 G 8 A 41

JOHN CARLSON

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
82-10-42-52-40

Still No. 1 on the Caps, but he's now 34, so we're seeing a (partially team-related) drop.



45

GP 74 G 20 A 25

LEO CARLSSON

ANAHEIM | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS C **AGE** 19
2023-24 STATS
55-12-17-29-16

Don't get overly excited just yet. He's still only 19, so give the future star some time.

72

GP 78 G 41 A 31

COLE CAUFIELD

MONTREAL | CAP HIT: $7,850,000

POS RW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
82-28-37-65-16

Isn't he supposed to be scoring 50 goals? Not predicting it yet, but take a chance.

SKATERS

CELEBRINI-COYLE

52 MACKLIN CELEBRINI

GP 80 G 24 A 28

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $975,000

POS C **AGE** 18
'23-24 NCAA STATS
38-32-32-64-18

He's good, but Sharks' second-best scorer last year had just 45 points, so it'll take time.

44 THOMAS CHABOT

GP 70 G 10 A 34

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
51-9-21-30-22

Battles injuries every year. A decent reward when healthy, but he's too much of a risk.

44 YEGOR CHINAKHOV

GP 75 G 22 A 22

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $2,100,000

POS RW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
53-16-13-29-6

Part of an effective Russian line in Columbus. He's a secondary scorer at this point.

37 JAKOB CHYCHRUN

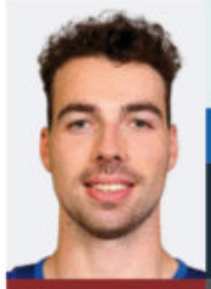
GP 75 G 12 A 25

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $4,600,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-14-27-41-60

He shoots a lot, plays a lot and is worth a lot as he enters his UFA season.



45 FILIP CHYTIL

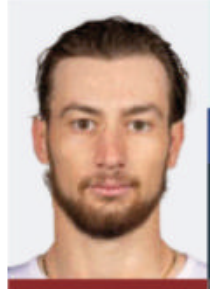
GP 73 G 20 A 25

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $4,437,500

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
10-0-6-6-4

Missed most of last year with a concussion but returned for playoffs. Sleeper pick.



41 ANTHONY CIRELLI

GP 75 G 18 A 23

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
79-20-25-45-38

Valuable beyond his scoring, but we're happy to get his reliable 40 points.

36 BRANDT CLARKE

GP 78 G 11 A 25

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $863,334

POS D **AGE** 21
2023-24 AHL STATS
50-10-36-46-49

The heir apparent to Doughty. He'll be scoring on the second-unit power play for now.

40 BLAKE COLEMAN

GP 80 G 20 A 20

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $4,900,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
78-30-24-54-76

Players who have first 30-goal season at 32 don't get another. Third-line center production.

38 ROSS COLTON

GP 80 G 18 A 20

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
80-17-23-40-61

Third-line center who brings third-line points. No good or bad surprises.

44 J.T. COMPHER

GP 78 G 17 A 27

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $5,100,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
77-19-29-48-34

He's never scored 20 goals, but he's reached double-digits seven years in a row.

76 KYLE CONNOR

GP 78 G 35 A 41

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $7,142,857

POS LW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
65-34-27-61-6

If not for the pandemic, Jets gunner would have seven straight 30-goal seasons.

54 LOGAN COOLEY

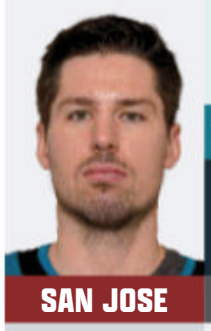
GP 80 G 24 A 30

UTAH

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS C **AGE** 20
2023-24 STATS
82-20-24-44-18

Up-and-down rookie season, but the future is sky-high. Modest increase for now.



47 LOGAN COUTURE

GP 65 G 22 A 25

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
6-0-1-1-4

Expected back after missing almost all of last season, but check his status first.

53 SEAN COUTURIER

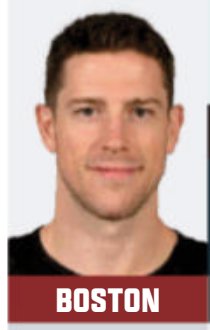
GP 72 G 18 A 35

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
74-11-27-38-29

Coach, performance and injury problems. A trade could revitalize his career.



48 CHARLIE COYLE

GP 82 G 18 A 30

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $5,250,000

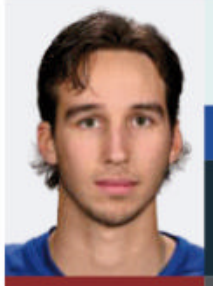
POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
82-25-35-60-38

He played higher in the lineup than usual and had a career season. Not likely to repeat.

SKATERS

COZENS-DRYSDALE

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE



58

GP 80 G 25 A 33

DYLAN COZENS

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $7,100,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
79-18-29-47-42

Took a step back last year (to 47 from 68), but so did many Sabres. Expect a step forward.

91

GP 82 G 38 A 53

SIDNEY CROSBY

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $8,700,000

POS C **AGE** 37
2023-24 STATS
82-42-52-94-40

We say the same thing every year: this man is a marvel. And at 37, there's no change.

45

GP 76 G 22 A 23

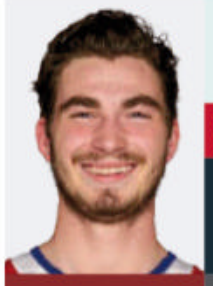
LAWSON CROUSE

UTAH

CAP HIT: $4,300,000

POS LW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
81-23-19-42-36

He's become a consistent 20-goal scorer, if you're looking for that sort of thing.



58

GP 70 G 21 A 37

KIRBY DACH

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $3,362,500

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
2-0-2-2-0

Missed almost all of last season. He's a sleeper on the rise and is ready for a big year.

36

GP 70 G 15 A 21

EVGENII DADONOV

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $2,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
51-12-11-23-8

He's an extra piece but one who fits in anywhere. Still somewhat of a risk.

63

GP 80 G 18 A 45

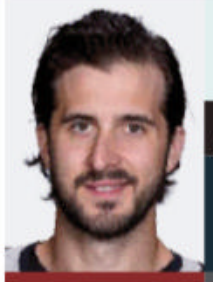
RASMUS DAHLIN

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $11,000,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
81-20-39-59-66

Scores at even strength (14 goals were tied for second among 'D') and the PP.



47

GP 80 G 14 A 33

PHILLIP DANAULT

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
78-17-30-47-18

Maintains a high level of defensive play and still manages around 50 points. Impressive.

68

GP 82 G 30 A 38

ALEX DEBRINCAT

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS RW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-27-40-67-34

Never misses time and averages 70 points. No further upside, but this is good enough.

47

GP 74 G 25 A 22

JAKE DEBRUSK

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
80-19-21-40-18

Scores in bunches, and then doesn't score in bunches. Sum total is a bunch of just OK.

70

GP 80 G 13 A 57

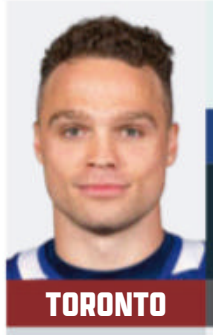
NOAH DOBSON

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
79-10-60-70-36

Elite offensive defenseman was one of seven NHL 'D' who reached the 70-point mark.



54

GP 80 G 13 A 41

MAX DOMI

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
80-9-38-47-118

He looks set on his seventh NHL team. Or so it seems. Take your chances.

51

GP 80 G 11 A 40

DREW DOUGHTY

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $11,000,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
82-15-35-50-44

Averaged more than 25 minutes a game for 12th season in a row. Not slowing down at 34.

121

GP 80 G 51 A 70

LEON DRAISAITL

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
81-41-65-106-76

More of the same, with maybe an uptick back to 50 goals. Closing in on 1,000 points.

41

GP 72 G 14 A 27

JONATHAN DROUIN

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
79-19-37-56-28

Coming off a decent season, but he's the last guy you want to trust for health or scoring.

43

GP 72 G 7 A 36

JAMIE DRYSDALE

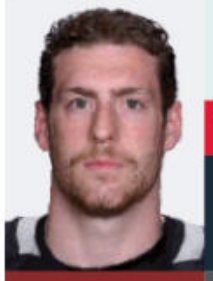
PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $2,300,000

POS D **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
34-3-7-10-8

You can expect him to play a big role on the power play – if he can stay healthy.

SKATERS



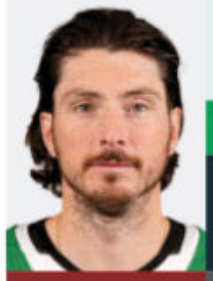
60 PIERRE-LUC DUBOIS

GP 82 G 25 A 35

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-16-24-40-70

His one season in Los Angeles was an utter disaster. Now, a fourth team gets its shot.



55 MATT DUCHENE

GP 75 G 22 A 33

DALLAS | CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
80-25-40-65-20

He can be either a pleasant surprise or a disappointment. Don't invest too highly.

39 ANTHONY DUCLAIR

GP 70 G 18 A 21

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $3,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
73-24-18-42-34

He's only reached the 45-point mark once. Heading into season 11, he's on team nine.

56 VINCE DUNN

GP 78 G 12 A 44

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $7,350,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
59-11-35-46-78

Has been Seattle's top PP 'D' option. Montour's signing brings competition though.

34 SEAN DURZI

GP 75 G 6 A 28

UTAH | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
76-9-32-41-63

With new arrival Sergachev, Durzi will lose some power-play time. Point total will drop.

44 JORDAN EBERLE

GP 80 G 21 A 23

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
78-17-27-44-17

He's always been an up-and-down points guy, but at 34, the ups are becoming less likely.

60 NIKOLAJ EHLERS

GP 78 G 25 A 35

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-25-36-61-29

Consistent scorer could be traded. It won't change anything; he'll still be consistent.

72 JACK EICHEL

GP 68 G 32 A 40

VEGAS | CAP HIT: $10,000,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
63-31-37-68-27

Injured so often he's not worth the risk of where he's likely to be picked in your draft.

38 AARON EKBLAD

GP 72 G 11 A 27

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
51-4-14-18-50

Coming off a poor year with more injuries, but expect him back in double-digit goals.

39 MATTIAS EKHOLM

GP 78 G 10 A 29

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
79-11-34-45-47

Won't get much PP time, but it won't matter, because he scores at even strength.

57 WILLIAM EKLUND

GP 81 G 23 A 34

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $863,333

POS LW **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
80-16-29-45-30

A big part of the Sharks' youth movement and their top left winger for many years.

67 JOEL ERIKSSON EK

GP 78 G 32 A 35

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $5,250,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
77-30-34-64-60

He does it all: first line, power play, penalty kill. Not huge production but very good.

58 LUKE EVANGELISTA

GP 81 G 25 A 33

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $797,500

POS RW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
80-16-23-39-18

Pushed his way onto the PP late last season, which means a big point increase is coming.

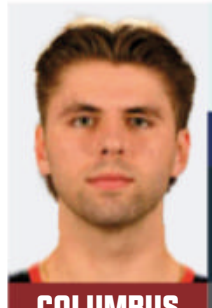
44 BROCK FABER

GP 80 G 7 A 37

MINNESOTA | CAP HIT: $925,000

POS D **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
82-8-39-47-26

Super rookie played a crazy 25 minutes a game. Points won't go up just yet.



54 ADAM FANTILLI

GP 78 G 23 A 31

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS C **AGE** 19
2023-24 STATS
49-12-15-27-16

Would've been one of Jackets' top scorers last year but for injuries. This time, he will be.

SKATERS

FARABEE-GLASS

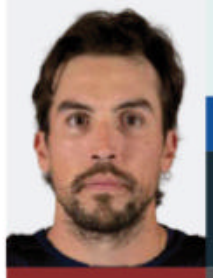
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

44 JOEL FARABEE

PHILADELPHIA | GP 82 G 20 A 24 | CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
82-22-28-50-37

Streaky scorer whose points don't add up to much, but he has secondary value.



46 JUSTIN FAULK

ST. LOUIS | GP 75 G 8 A 38 | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
60-2-28-30-39

He's had bad years before and managed to recover. He'll get more PP time with Krug injury.

71 KEVIN FIALA

LOS ANGELES | GP 80 G 30 A 41 | CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-29-44-73-62

He's solid from month to month and year to year, making him a good, reliable pick.

44 TYSON FOERSTER

PHILADELPHIA | GP 78 G 22 A 22 | CAP HIT: $863,334

POS RW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
77-20-13-33-32

At this point, he's a third-liner who has the advantage of being a 20-goal scorer.

81 FILIP FORSBERG

NASHVILLE | GP 77 G 41 A 40 | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-48-46-94-43

Coming off a career year. But that's the peak, and he has a history of up and down years.

39 GUSTAV FORSLING

FLORIDA | GP 80 G 11 A 28 | CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
79-10-29-39-43

Consistent at around 10 goals and 40 points. Nothing wrong with that from the blueline.

30 CAM FOWLER

ANAHEIM | GP 80 G 5 A 25 | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
81-5-34-39-24

He'll be needed less on the PP with other offensive D-men on the way up in Anaheim.

82 ADAM FOX

NY RANGERS | GP 82 G 20 A 62 | CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
72-17-56-73-36

Output was right in his range and would've been even better but for poor December stretch.

41 TRENT FREDERIC

BOSTON | GP 81 G 20 A 21 | CAP HIT: $2,300,000

POS C **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-18-22-40-69

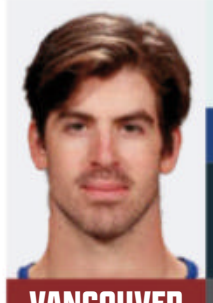
He's improved his scoring every year, but it still doesn't amount to very much.

57 MORGAN FROST

PHILADELPHIA | GP 80 G 22 A 35 | CAP HIT: $2,100,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
71-13-28-41-22

There are signs (27 second-half points), and he could emerge as team's No. 1 center.

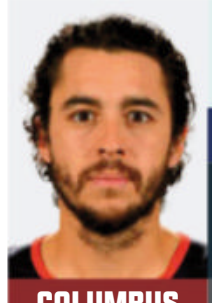


46 CONOR GARLAND

VANCOUVER | GP 81 G 18 A 28 | CAP HIT: $4,950,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-20-27-47-35

Although more was expected at one time, around 50 points for a middle-six player is fine.



75 JOHNNY GAUDREAU

COLUMBUS | GP 81 G 20 A 55 | CAP HIT: $9,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
81-12-48-60-22

Reuniting with his former center from Calgary will help lift Gaudreau out of mediocrity.

50 CUTTER GAUTHIER

ANAHEIM | GP 78 G 27 A 23 | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS LW **AGE** 20
'23-24 NCAA STATS
41-38-27-65-18

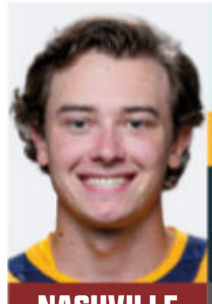
Controversial trade acquisition isn't a controversial Calder candidate. He's a contender.

55 CLAUDE GIROUX

OTTAWA | GP 82 G 20 A 35 | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 36
2023-24 STATS
82-21-43-64-26

Still cranking out good seasons, but we need to be just a little bit wary now that he's 36.



38 CODY GLASS

NASHVILLE | GP 71 G 16 A 22 | CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
41-6-7-13-20

It's time for him to step up. Far from a sure thing, but he's a good late-round spec pick.

SKATERS

GOSTISBEHERE-HAYES

56

GP 80 G 12 A 44

SHAYNE GOSTISBEHERE

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $3,200,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
81-10-46-56-16

He's offense-only. But it's at a decent enough level to disregard his shortcomings.

38

GP 80 G 14 A 24

YANNI GOURDE

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $5,166,667

POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
80-11-22-33-62

Not known for his offense, but he's reached the 20-goal mark three times.

57

GP 80 G 15 A 42

MIKAEL GRANLUND

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
69-12-48-60-32

He can disappear at times. But he's safe this year with his pact expiring and a trade likely.

37

GP 79 G 18 A 19

RIDLY GREIG

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $863,334

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
72-13-13-26-66

Slapshots on empty nets aside, he had a nice rookie year, with second-line potential.

64

GP 80 G 33 A 31

DYLAN GUENTHER

UTAH

CAP HIT: $894,167

POS RW **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
45-18-17-35-14

Dynamite in second half. His 15 goals in the final 34 games led the team. Big rising star.

84

GP 77 G 37 A 47

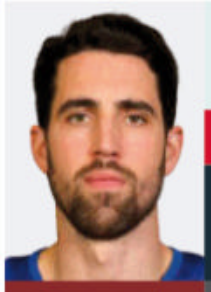
JAKE GUENTZEL

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
67-30-47-77-22

Crosby was a great linemate for a long time, but Kucherov and Point make up for it.



31

GP 75 G 5 A 26

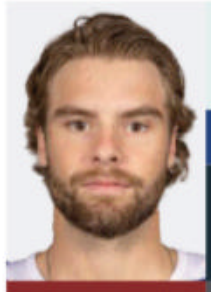
ERIK GUSTAFSSON

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS D **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
76-6-25-31-35

He has offensive ability, but at this point, he is destined for the second power-play unit.



70

GP 80 G 30 A 40

BRANDON HAGEL

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-26-49-75-79

The neat thing about him is he was eighth in the NHL with 66 even-strength points.

49

GP 70 G 16 A 33

TAYLOR HALL

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
10-2-2-4-4

Feast or famine. Feast if he plays with Bedard; famine if he sustains yet another injury.

56

GP 78 G 14 A 42

DOUGIE HAMILTON

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
20-5-11-16-20

Isn't always the best producer, but he's reached double-digits in goals eight times in 12 years.

36

GP 80 G 8 A 28

NOAH HANIFIN

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $7,350,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
80-13-34-47-24

Gets a lot of ice time, takes a lot of shots and helps out on the scoresheet.

47

GP 80 G 12 A 35

THOMAS HARLEY

DALLAS

CAP HIT: RFA

POS D **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
79-15-32-47-18

Came out of nowhere for a sensational season, even without top-unit power-play time.

41

GP 72 G 20 A 21

RYAN HARTMAN

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
74-21-24-45-72

Had one 30-goal season, but now, you hope for 20 goals and for him to avoid injuries.

39

GP 78 G 17 A 22

ERIK HAULA

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $3,150,000

POS LW **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
76-16-19-35-54

As a third-line center, he gets third-line center points. No surprises, good or bad.

37

GP 75 G 15 A 22

KEVIN HAYES

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $3,571,429

POS RW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
79-13-16-29-12

He'll be better than he was last year. Any worse and he won't be playing at all.

SKATERS

HAYTON-HUGHES

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

47

GP 77 G 22 A 25

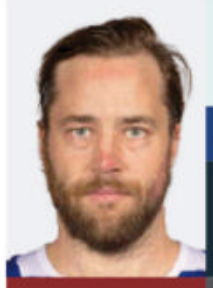
BARRETT HAYTON

UTAH

CAP HIT: $2,650,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
33-3-7-10-26

Promising season waylaid by injury. Based on the previous season, expect good things.



63

GP 80 G 11 A 52

VICTOR HEDMAN

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS D **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
78-13-63-76-76

With 76-, 49- and 85-point seasons in past three years, you can't rely on 80 points.

62

GP 75 G 10 A 52

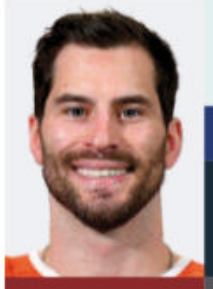
MIRO HEISKANEN

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $8,450,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
71-9-45-54-36

Dropped from 73 to 54 points. Regaining those points not difficult for elite defenseman.



41

GP 72 G 17 A 24

ADAM HENRIQUE

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
82-24-27-51-37

He's 34, so there's no longer an upside, but still a decent low-range secondary scorer.

59

GP 77 G 25 A 34

TOMAS HERTL

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $6,750,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
54-17-21-38-22

Look up "yearly 60-point scorer" in the hockey dictionary and you'll see his face.

70

GP 78 G 33 A 37

ROOPE HINTZ

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $8,450,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
80-30-35-65-22

He's reached the 30-goal mark three seasons in a row. He even scores shorthanded.

75

GP 75 G 30 A 45

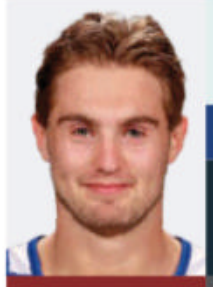
NICO HISCHIER

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
71-27-40-67-12

His 45 second-half points led the team when Jack Hughes had injury problems.



36

GP 78 G 21 A 15

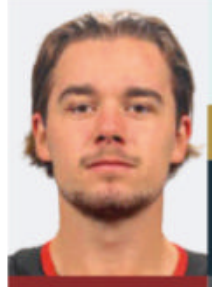
NILS HOGLANDER

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $1,100,000

POS LW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
80-24-12-36-51

His 24 even-strength goals were one off team lead. That's impressive, but 12 assists is not.



38

GP 80 G 18 A 20

ALEXANDER HOLTZ

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $894,167

POS RW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
82-16-12-28-14

He's had one full season. It wasn't great, but give him a break. Better days ahead.

73

GP 77 G 41 A 32

BO HORVAT

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
81-33-35-68-39

There's 40-goal potential (his huge salary says so), but we haven't seen it. Yet.

55

GP 78 G 10 A 45

FILIP HRONEK

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
81-5-43-48-38

No room for primary offense in Vancouver. But his secondary offense is always reliable.

57

GP 80 G 15 A 42

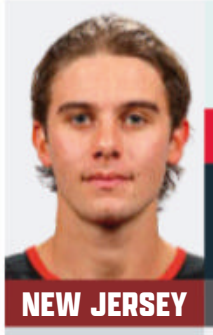
JONATHAN HUBERDEAU

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $10,500,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
81-12-40-52-49

Of course you know he had 115 points a couple years ago. Just something to keep in mind.



90

GP 72 G 35 A 55

JACK HUGHES

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
62-27-47-74-12

A potential 100-point scorer, but more difficult for him may be staying healthy.

43

GP 80 G 10 A 33

LUKE HUGHES

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $925,000

POS D **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
82-9-38-47-28

There were a few growing pains as a rookie, so hold off on the big point jump for now.

86

GP 80 G 15 A 71

QUINN HUGHES

VANCOUVER

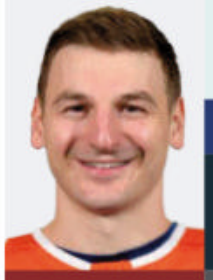
CAP HIT: $7,850,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
82-17-75-92-38

What else can he possibly do? At this high of a level, it's difficult to go even higher.

SKATERS

HYMAN-KELLER



75

GP 80 G 41 A 34

ZACH HYMAN

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
80-54-23-77-48

For some guys, a 50-goal season comes once in a lifetime. He's one of those guys.

40

GP 75 G 18 A 22

CALLE JARNKROK

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $2,100,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
52-10-11-21-18

Nothing special, with a ceiling of 40 points, but speedy forward fits in anywhere.

70

GP 80 G 35 A 35

SETH JARVIS

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: RFA

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
81-33-34-67-14

Young character player added more offense to an already impressive game.

48

GP 73 G 25 A 23

BOONE JENNER

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
58-22-13-35-28

He's never been a big scorer despite top-line placement. He has other value...just not to us.

42

GP 80 G 20 A 22

KENT JOHNSON

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $1,800,000

POS C **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
42-6-10-16-10

Sophomore season was a disaster. It happens. Too good not to make full recovery.

74

GP 82 G 37 A 37

WYATT JOHNSTON

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $894,167

POS C **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
82-32-33-65-38

Dallas' leading second-half scorer (41 points) was also sensational in the playoffs.

36

GP 75 G 10 A 26

SETH JONES

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
67-8-23-31-34

It's difficult to bring much offense on a team that struggles so much on defense.

80

GP 80 G 20 A 60

ROMAN JOSI

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $9,059,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
82-23-62-85-45

Perennial Norris candidate reached 85-point mark for the second time in three years.

66

GP 80 G 25 A 41

NAZEM KADRI

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
82-29-46-75-43

While the Flames were falling apart, he held it together. But he has even less help now.

39

GP 72 G 18 A 21

EVANDER KANE

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $5,125,000

POS LW **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
77-24-20-44-85

Coming off a rare full season, the 33-year-old isn't reliable except as a late-round pick.

66

GP 75 G 25 A 41

PATRICK KANE

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
50-20-27-47-16

Very respectable comeback, but at 35, he's not going to score like he used to.

105

GP 78 G 50 A 55

KIRILL KAPRIZOV

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
75-46-50-96-36

Finished 27 points ahead of next Wild scorer. With more help, he gets 50 goals a year.

65

GP 80 G 12 A 53

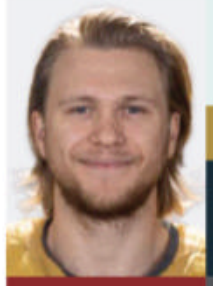
ERIK KARLSSON

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $10,000,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
82-11-45-56-44

From 101 points to 56 partly due to poor power play. His fault or not, it has to improve.



49

GP 75 G 18 A 31

WILLIAM KARLSSON

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $5,900,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
70-30-30-60-22

He has spectacular seasons once in a while, but, mostly, they're just mediocre.

80

GP 80 G 35 A 45

CLAYTON KELLER

UTAH

CAP HIT: $7,150,000

POS RW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
78-33-43-76-32

Consistent producer is not dependent on his team's success or quality of his linemates.

SKATERS

KEMPE-LAINE

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

70

LOS ANGELES KINGS | GP 79 G 34 A 36

ADRIAN KEMPE

LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
77-28-47-75-72

Goals dropped (41 to 28), but assists went up (26 to 47). Still set a career high in points.

42

UTAH | GP 82 G 12 A 30

ALEX KERFOOT

UTAH | CAP HIT: $3,500,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-13-32-45-26

He's attractive in the 40-point range because he's always healthy and in the lineup.

50

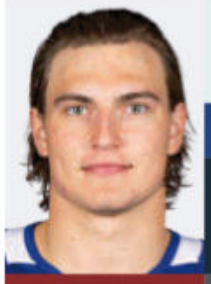
ANAHEIM | GP 81 G 24 A 26

ALEX KILLORN

ANAHEIM | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS LW **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
63-18-18-36-54

Decent secondary scorer who, despite missing time last season, rarely gets injured.



47

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS | GP 80 G 20 A 27

MATTHEW KNIES

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $925,000

POS LW **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
80-15-20-35-45

Didn't tear it up as a rookie despite plum line assignments. Give him time to grow.

69

PHILADELPHIA | GP 78 G 36 A 33

TRAVIS KONECNY

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
76-33-35-68-67

Flyers' top scorer each of past three years. Came in under 70 points each season, though.

65

LOS ANGELES KINGS | GP 80 G 25 A 40

ANZE KOPITAR

LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS C **AGE** 37
2023-24 STATS
81-26-44-70-22

Still maintaining a high level of play and health, but for how much longer will that last?

30

CHICAGO | GP 78 G 10 A 20

KEVIN KORCHINSKI

CHICAGO | CAP HIT: $918,333

POS D **AGE** 20
2023-24 STATS
76-5-10-15-20

He's working on his defense, but his value will be on the scoresheet eventually.

40

CAROLINA | GP 80 G 15 A 25

JESPERI KOTKANIEMI

CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $4,820,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
79-12-15-27-36

Tough to figure out. He shows some spurts of promise, but then it disappears.

65

NY RANGERS | GP 80 G 37 A 28

CHRIS KREIDER

NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
82-39-36-75-26

No more 50-goal years, but his assists went way up (18 to 36). That's a one-year aberration.

125

TAMPA BAY | GP 80 G 40 A 85

NIKITA KUCHEROV

TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
81-44-100-144-22

Get this: his 61 second-half assists were more than all but 13 other NHLers had all year.

38

CHICAGO | GP 78 G 15 A 23

PHILIPP KURASHEV

CHICAGO | CAP HIT: $2,250,000

POS C **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
75-18-36-54-23

Breakout season was thanks to Bedard, but he's not likely to be No. 98's winger this year.

58

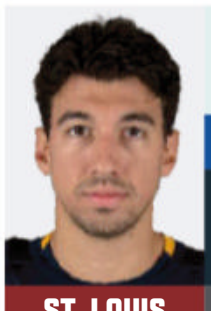
CALGARY | GP 73 G 25 A 33

ANDREI KUZMENKO

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
72-22-24-46-12

Was better with Flames after trade from Canucks, but those types of players are a concern.



72

ST. LOUIS | GP 80 G 34 A 38

JORDAN KYROU

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $8,125,000

POS C **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-31-36-67-22

Has averaged 32 goals and 72 points over the past three seasons. More of the same.

61

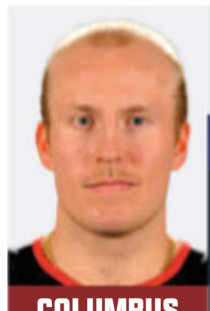
NY RANGERS | GP 80 G 30 A 31

ALEXIS LAFRENIERE

NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $2,325,000

POS LW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
82-28-29-57-40

The breakout took time, but he got it in Year 4. That's when it clicks for many youngsters.



50

COLUMBUS | GP 65 G 25 A 25

PATRIK LAINE

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $8,700,000

POS LW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
18-6-3-9-6

Missed most of last year with injury or in player assistance. High risk, medium reward.

SKATERS

LANDESKOG-MALKIN

48 GABRIEL LANDESKOG

GP 50 G 20 A 28

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
DNP

Make sure to check his health. Even if he's playing, it's better to let someone else worry.

39 HENDRIX LAPIERRE

GP 78 G 15 A 24

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $863,334

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
51-8-14-22-4

Was Caps' fourth-best scorer from late February to end of year (15 points in 26 games).

77 DYLAN LARKIN

GP 80 G 35 A 42

DETROIT | CAP HIT: $8,700,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
68-33-36-69-39

Has never had an 80-point season, but he's coming off fourth 30-goal year in Detroit.

40 SCOTT LAUGHTON

GP 80 G 15 A 25

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-13-26-39-69

His value doesn't extend too far into the scoresheet as a third-line center.

42 ANDERS LEE

GP 80 G 22 A 20

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
81-20-17-37-68

Coming off a bad season. It's not the end of the road, but at 34, you can see it coming.

49 ARTTURI LEHKONEN

GP 65 G 22 A 27

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
45-16-18-34-14

With power-play time on the Avs, he's a decent scorer. But he's an oft-injured one, too.

45 KRIS LETANG

GP 75 G 10 A 35

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $6,100,000

POS D **AGE** 37
2023-24 STATS
82-10-41-51-62

He must drink the same water as Crosby. At 37, the offense-minded 'D' is still going strong.

70 ELIAS LINDHOLM

GP 80 G 24 A 46

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
75-15-29-44-25

After tumbling down the scoring ladder, he climbs back up with Pastrnak on his wing.

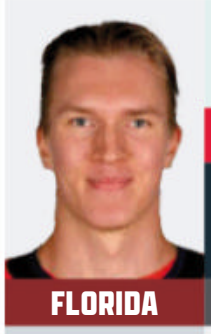
32 HAMPUS LINDHOLM

GP 76 G 7 A 25

BOSTON | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
73-3-23-26-63

He's only had one good offensive season, but you know it's in there somewhere.



45 ANTON LUNDELL

GP 78 G 18 A 27

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
78-13-22-35-46

This is his fourth season, so it's time to step it up a bit...or a lot. Worth a gamble.

36 EETU LUOSTARINEN

GP 82 G 15 A 21

FLORIDA | CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS C **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-12-15-27-26

A good defensive player and penalty-killer but can be more of an offensive force.

59 MATIAS MACCELLI

GP 81 G 15 A 44

UTAH | CAP HIT: $3,425,000

POS LW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
82-17-40-57-8

Assist specialist has increasingly better goal-scorers to whom he can pass the puck.

124 NATHAN MACKINNON

GP 80 G 50 A 74

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $12,600,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
82-51-89-140-42

Incredible player, but, surely, he has peaked at 140 points. If the sky's the limit, he's there.

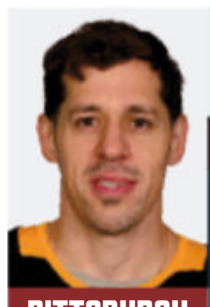
95 CALE MAKAR

GP 77 G 23 A 72

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $9,000,000

POS D **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
77-21-69-90-16

Elite defenseman on power play with elite forwards. Potential for 100 points.



60 EVGENI MALKIN

GP 78 G 25 A 35

PITTSBURGH | CAP HIT: $6,100,000

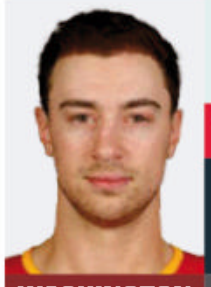
POS C **AGE** 38
2023-24 STATS
82-27-40-67-70

Not in Crosby's league for excellence in longevity, but still pretty good at 38.

SKATERS

MANGIAPANE-MCTAVISH

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE



40

GP 82 G 15 A 25

ANDREW MANGIAPANE

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $5,800,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
75-14-26-40-47

Turns out his 35-goal year was twice as good as any other, but middling points still there.

63

GP 77 G 31 A 32

BRAD MARCHAND

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $6,125,000

POS LW **AGE** 36
2023-24 STATS
82-29-38-67-78

Coming off yet another good season, but at 36, how many more does he have left?

37

GP 79 G 21 A 16

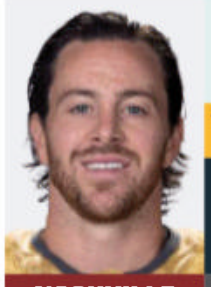
KIRILL MARCHENKO

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $3,850,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
78-23-19-42-14

Scored 20 goals in both NHL seasons, but the added assists were new ground. Beware.



60

GP 79 G 31 A 29

JONATHAN MARCHESSAULT

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
82-42-27-69-40

Forty-two goals at 33 when you've never had more than 30? Not repeatable.

43

GP 78 G 18 A 25

MASON MARCHMENT

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
81-22-31-53-54

The Stars have a lot of scorers, so Marchment is guaranteed to play with good linemates.

101

GP 78 G 33 A 68

MITCH MARNER

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $10,903,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
69-26-59-85-18

Points-per-game average over past six seasons paces him for exactly 100. That's a lot.

32

GP 75 G 7 A 25

DENTON MATEYCHUK

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $886,666

POS D **AGE** 20
2023-24 WHL STATS
52-17-58-75-31

WHL top defenseman and playoff MVP finished in AHL playoffs on the power play.

56

GP 79 G 11 A 45

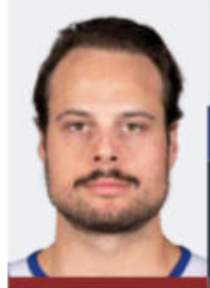
MIKE MATHESON

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $4,875,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-11-51-62-58

Has become a top offensive defenseman and played third-most minutes in NHL last year.



100

GP 80 G 55 A 45

AUSTON MATTHEWS

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $13,250,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
81-69-38-107-20

Improving on 69 goals isn't going to happen. A decent decrease is much more likely.

49

GP 72 G 10 A 39

CHARLIE MCAVOY

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
74-12-35-47-86

Mans the point on the power play, which puts him consistently around 50 points.

54

GP 80 G 27 A 27

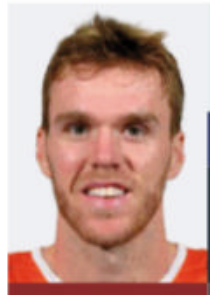
JARED MCCANN

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
80-29-33-62-31

His 39 second-half points were at least twice as many as all but two Kraken teammates.



137

GP 80 G 47 A 90

CONNOR MCDAVID

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $12,500,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
76-32-100-132-30

Not much else the game's best player can do after getting 100 assists and playoff MVP.

36

GP 75 G 23 A 13

BOBBY MCMANN

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $1,350,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
56-15-9-24-52

Nice success story for goal-scorer, but don't get carried away. Not many assists.

58

GP 80 G 25 A 33

CONNOR MCMICHAEL

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $2,100,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
80-18-15-33-34

He's going through natural progression. It's time to progress to the next level.

60

GP 80 G 27 A 33

MASON MCTAVISH

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $894,167

POS C **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
64-19-23-42-86

On steady rise to inevitable breakout season. It's 50/50 whether it's this year or next.

SKATERS

MEIER-NEWHOOK

67 TIMO MEIER

GP 76 G 36 A 31

NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: $8,800,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
69-28-24-52-45

Finally started to show his true self in Jersey when he led team with 19 second-half goals.

50 DAWSON MERCER

GP 82 G 25 A 25

NEW JERSEY | CAP HIT: RFA

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
82-20-13-33-29

Coming off a rather disappointing season, so look for the 22-year-old to blossom.

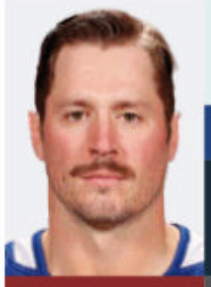
51 MATVEI MICHKOV

GP 78 G 26 A 25

PHILADELPHIA | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS RW **AGE** 19
2023-24 KHL STATS
48-19-22-41-26

Very likely a future star, but there will be an adjustment period in his first NHL season.



100 J.T. MILLER

GP 81 G 35 A 65

VANCOUVER | CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
81-37-66-103-58

Your first 100-point season in your 12th year is surely as good as it gets.

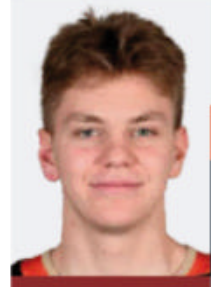
34 K'ANDRE MILLER

GP 81 G 10 A 24

NY RANGERS | CAP HIT: $3,872,000

POS D **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
80-8-22-30-49

Won't get power-play time or put up big numbers, but he's skilled at scoring goals.



37 PAVEL MINTYUKOV

GP 78 G 6 A 31

ANAHEIM | CAP HIT: $918,333

POS D **AGE** 20
2023-24 STATS
63-4-24-28-24

He'll get some power-play time, and he's also a good scorer at even strength.

57 CASEY MITTELSTADT

GP 80 G 17 A 40

COLORADO | CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
80-18-39-57-32

Perfect fit as Colorado's No. 2 center, but he won't get much power-play time.

60 SEAN MONAHAN

GP 70 G 26 A 34

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
83-26-33-59-12

Can he regain his magic playing with 'Johnny Hockey'? Not if he plays hurt again.

41 BRANDON MONTOUR

GP 78 G 10 A 31

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $7,142,857

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
66-8-25-33-46

Should recover from a drastic point drop, but he's now behind Dunn on the power play.

50 TREVOR MOORE

GP 81 G 25 A 25

LOS ANGELES | CAP HIT: $4,200,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
82-31-26-57-28

Impressive career trajectory from undrafted career minor-leaguer to 30-goal scorer.

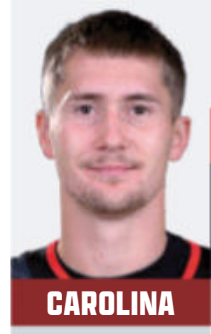
73 JOSH MORRISSEY

GP 80 G 15 A 58

WINNIPEG | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
81-10-59-69-44

Some things defy explanation. After a career in the second tier, he's now among the elite.



63 MARTIN NECAS

GP 79 G 31 A 32

CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
77-24-29-53-42

He shoots the puck more than anyone else in Carolina and should be scoring 30 goals.

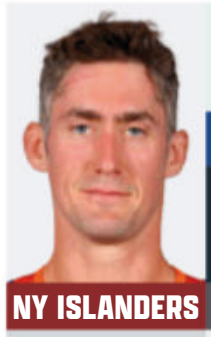
41 JAKE NEIGHBOURS

GP 78 G 25 A 16

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $835,834

POS LW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
77-27-11-38-21

Not much on assists but has a knack for scoring goals, including on the power play.



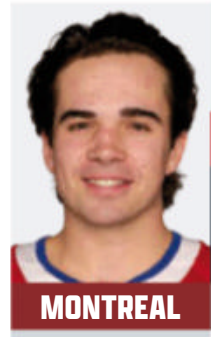
70 BROCK NELSON

GP 82 G 35 A 35

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
82-34-35-69-28

He's consistent in the 35-goal range, which is what we're looking for in a 35-goal scorer.



54 ALEX NEWHOOK

GP 78 G 23 A 31

MONTREAL | CAP HIT: $2,900,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
55-15-19-34-18

Second-line duty, power-play time and good health will lift him above the 30-point range.

SKATERS

NICHUSHKIN-PAUL

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

48

GP 57 G 23 A 25

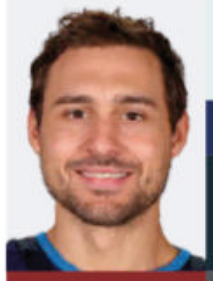
VALERI NICHUSHKIN

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $6,125,000

POS RW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
54-28-25-53-22

He's suspended until mid-November. He scores when he plays, but best to avoid.



45

GP 78 G 22 A 23

NINO NIEDERREITER

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
77-18-16-34-34

He should be scoring more than 34 measly points. At least 45 measly points.

58

GP 70 G 30 A 28

JOSH NORRIS

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $7,950,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
50-16-14-30-22

This point prediction is based on the unlikely condition he stays relatively healthy.

45

GP 70 G 15 A 30

TOMMY NOVAK

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $3,500,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
71-18-27-45-8

Once you get past Nashville's top five, he's next in line. A classic middle-six forward.

68

GP 80 G 22 A 46

RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $5,125,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
80-18-49-67-36

He's not a 100-point scorer, so a 37-point drop isn't a surprise. He's a 60-range scorer.

34

GP 81 G 11 A 23

DARNELL NURSE

EDMONTON

CAP HIT: $9,250,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
81-10-22-32-79

Not a big point producer, but he's reached double-digits in goals four times in his career.

95

GP 82 G 40 A 55

WILLIAM NYLANDER

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $11,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-40-58-98-24

He can run hot and cold, but the hot streaks more than make up for anything cold.

65

GP 80 G 20 A 45

GUSTAV NYQUIST

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $3,185,000

POS C **AGE** 35
2023-24 STATS
81-23-52-75-8

Career years at 34 are rare, but if he stays on the top line and PP, he can come close again.

65

GP 81 G 25 A 40

RYAN O'REILLY

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
82-26-43-69-18

A career revival of sorts has O'Reilly on the top line and power play.

63

GP 78 G 42 A 21

ALEX OVECHKIN

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 39
2023-24 STATS
79-31-34-65-20

After eight first-half goals, he had 23 in second half. Needs 41 to tie Gretzky all-time.

37

GP 77 G 15 A 22

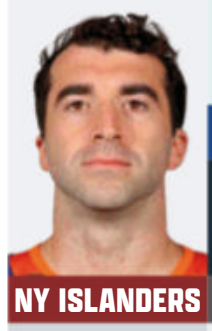
ONDREJ PALAT

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
71-11-20-31-37

Playoff performer is prone to injury, but is a better regular-season scorer than he's shown.



46

GP 70 G 21 A 25

KYLE PALMIERI

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
82-30-24-54-26

Coming off a 30-goal season, which ties his career mark. Even so, he's not to be trusted.

107

GP 82 G 37 A 70

ARTEMI PANARIN

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $11,642,857

POS LW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
82-49-71-120-24

Great season with big goal rise was fuelled by almost 100 more shots than in 2022-23.

110

GP 82 G 50 A 60

DAVID PASTRNAK

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $11,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-47-63-110-47

So, he's not going to score 60 goals every year, but 100 points is still on the table.

38

GP 80 G 18 A 20

NICK PAUL

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $3,150,000

POS LW **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
82-24-22-46-27

If he stops getting power-play time, his mediocre point production will fall.

SKATERS

PERFETTI-RANTANEN

50

GP 78 G 23 A 27

COLE PERFETTI

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: RFA

POS C **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
71-19-19-38-12

It's hard to be patient with first-rounders, but it's coming for the 22-year-old. Soon.

49

GP 78 G 18 A 31

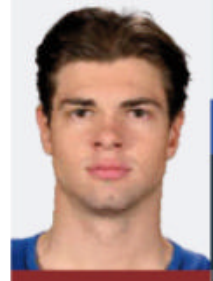
DAVID PERRON

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 36
2023-24 STATS
76-17-30-47-55

Even at 36, he can put up respectable numbers in the 50-point range.



48

GP 82 G 23 A 25

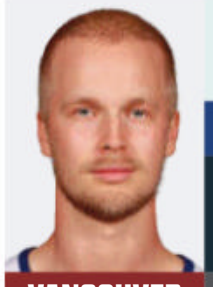
JJ PETERKA

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $855,834

POS RW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
82-28-22-50-28

He's probably at his ceiling at 50 points. Had 26 points in the first half and 24 in the second.



93

GP 80 G 35 A 58

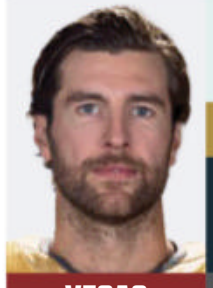
ELIAS PETTERSSON

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $11,600,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
82-34-55-89-12

You hear about his one bad playoff more than his past two great regular seasons.



45

GP 75 G 10 A 35

ALEX PIETRANGELO

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $8,800,000

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
64-4-29-33-24

Coming off a poor season for him. At 34, you should at least worry, but a rebound is likely.

42

GP 82 G 20 A 22

SHANE PINTO

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
41-9-18-27-14

Proved valuable after serving his gambling suspension. Projects as Sens' No. 3 center.

33

GP 81 G 7 A 26

NEAL PIONK

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $5,875,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
82-5-28-33-63

Between 32 and 34 points for the past four seasons looks suspiciously like a pattern.

37

GP 78 G 15 A 22

RYAN POEHLING

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $1,900,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
77-11-17-28-6

Hasn't shown much in his career, but he's a decent spec pick in the later rounds.

94

GP 80 G 50 A 44

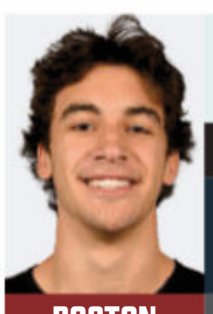
BRAYDEN POINT

TAMPA BAY

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
81-46-44-90-14

Two healthy 90-point seasons in a row put to rest any previous doubts about reliability.



38

GP 74 G 13 A 25

MATTHEW POITRAS

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $870,000

POS C **AGE** 20
2023-24 STATS
33-5-10-15-6

Had some good rookie moments before losing second half to should surgery.

42

GP 78 G 8 A 34

OWEN POWER

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $8,350,000

POS D **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
76-6-27-33-28

Good offense, but for now, he's limited to the second power-play unit.

30

GP 82 G 7 A 23

IVAN PROVOROV

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $6,750,000

POS D **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
82-5-27-32-20

He'll score some goals and rarely misses games, but the totals don't add up to much.

56

GP 75 G 25 A 31

JACK QUINN

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $863,334

POS RW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
27-9-10-19-8

Missed much of 2023-24 with Achilles surgery. Top-six winger looked good otherwise.

43

GP 72 G 20 A 23

RICKARD RAKELL

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
70-15-22-37-22

Two seasons in the 60s, one in the 50s, the rest in the 40s or lower. Not a great average.

105

GP 81 G 50 A 55

MIKKO RANTANEN

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $9,250,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
80-42-62-104-50

Two-time 100-point scorer, yet he gets overlooked playing with MacKinnon and Makar.

SKATERS

RAYMOND-SCHEIFELE

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

82

GP 82 G 36 A 46

LUCAS RAYMOND

DETROIT

CAP HIT: RFA

POS LW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
82-31-41-72-30

A star for many years to come. Still hasn't peaked as he enters his fourth season in the NHL.

37

GP 76 G 13 A 24

LUKAS REICHEL

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $1,200,000

POS LW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
65-5-11-16-12

Coming off a terribly disappointing season, but he's got another chance to get it right.

83

GP 82 G 45 A 38

SAM REINHART

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $8,625,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
82-57-37-94-31

Once-in-a-lifetime season is likely just that, but he'll still score goals at a high level.

65

GP 75 G 10 A 55

MORGAN RIELLY

TORONTO

CAP HIT: $7,500,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
72-7-51-58-27

Power-play point man on a team with superior power-play forwards.

88

GP 82 G 36 A 52

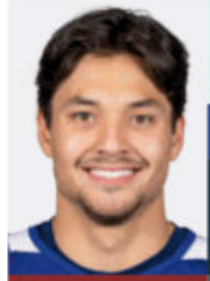
JASON ROBERTSON

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS LW **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
82-29-51-80-22

Curious goal drop from 46 to 29, but he still led great Stars team in assists and points.



41

GP 77 G 18 A 23

NICK ROBERTSON

TORONTO

CAP HIT: RFA

POS LW **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
56-14-13-27-4

Give him a healthy season on a consistent line and he'll finally produce. We think.

38

GP 78 G 14 A 24

EVAN RODRIGUES

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
80-12-27-39-34

Three years in a row, on three different teams, he's put up around 40 points.

44

GP 75 G 14 A 30

JACK ROSLOVIC

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $2,800,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
59-9-22-31-16

Despite a top-six role after a trade to the Rangers, he's a 45-point guy at best.

48

GP 80 G 23 A 25

MARCO ROSSI

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $863,334

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
82-21-19-40-47

He has the potential to be a higher scorer, but no room yet for him to move up the lineup.

48

GP 75 G 18 A 30

NICOLAS ROY

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
70-13-28-41-29

Shows signs of being a bigger scorer, but the center position is crowded enough in Vegas.

65

GP 80 G 30 A 35

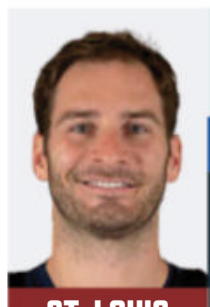
BRYAN RUST

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $5,125,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
62-28-28-56-20

Supposed third wheel on Crosby's line had 20 points in 20 games after Guentzel trade.



41

GP 79 G 23 A 18

BRANDON SAAD

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
82-26-16-42-20

Has paced for 25 goals and 45 points per 82 games in his three years in St. Louis.

49

GP 78 G 10 A 39

JAKE SANDERSON

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $8,050,000

POS D **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
79-10-28-38-23

With Chychrun gone, the all-around D-man becomes even more crucial on the PP.

41

GP 81 G 10 A 31

TRAVIS SANHEIM

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
81-10-34-44-48

Wasn't regularly on Flyers' listless first power-play unit, but he led their 'D' in points.

71

GP 77 G 30 A 41

MARK SCHEIFELE

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
74-25-47-72-57

Goal totals fluctuate, but he has a very good average of 70 points the past three years.

SKATERS

SCHENN-SLAVIN

56 BRAYDEN SCHENN

GP 82 G 22 A 34

ST. LOUIS | CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS C **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
82-20-26-46-56

There's no unforeseen upside, but he should recover well after last year's subpar output.

58 NICK SCHMALTZ

GP 78 G 23 A 35

UTAH | CAP HIT: $5,850,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
79-22-39-61-10

Injuries a problem, but he has been around 60 points three years in a row, healthy or not.

32 JUSTIN SCHULTZ

GP 74 G 7 A 25

UFA | CAP HIT: UFA

POS D **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
70-7-19-26-22

He can score at even strength and will get second-unit PP time. It's not much, though.

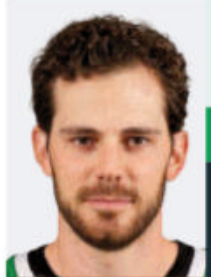
40 JADEN SCHWARTZ

GP 70 G 20 A 20

SEATTLE | CAP HIT: $5,500,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
62-13-17-30-24

He could and has been a decent secondary scorer, but the injury risk is just too great.



52 TYLER SEGUIN

GP 75 G 24 A 28

DALLAS | CAP HIT: $9,850,000

POS C **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
68-25-27-52-26

We used to expect a lot more from him. Now, we expect him in the 50-point range.

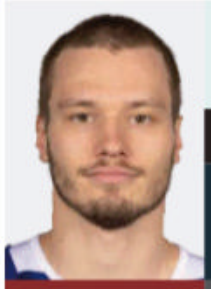
59 MORITZ SEIDER

GP 82 G 12 A 47

DETROIT | CAP HIT: RFA

POS D **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
82-9-33-42-51

He's more than ready to take over as the Red Wings' prime offensive defenseman.



48 MIKHAIL SERGACHEV

GP 78 G 10 A 38

UTAH | CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS D **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
34-2-17-19-16

With no Hedman in front of him, Utah's new top D-man will be counted on for offense.

36 DAMON SEVERSON

GP 80 G 11 A 25

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
67-9-19-28-51

He's an offensive threat, but in order to get assists, someone else has to be there to score.

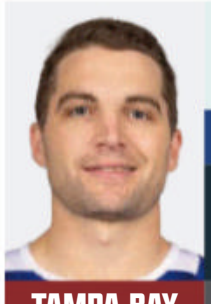
55 YEGOR SHARANGOVICH

GP 80 G 25 A 30

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $3,100,000

POS C **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
82-31-28-59-8

Better line assignments and power-play time increased his production. More of the same.



36 CONOR SHEARY

GP 80 G 15 A 21

TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
57-4-11-15-12

He's shown over the years that he can't be as bad as he was in his first season in Tampa Bay.

45 COLE SILLINGER

GP 78 G 20 A 25

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: RFA

POS C **AGE** 21
2023-24 STATS
77-13-19-32-46

Fourth season. Age 21. Plenty of adversity and experience. Recipe for a breakout.

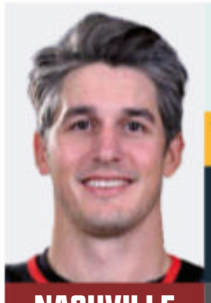
55 JEFF SKINNER

GP 78 G 29 A 26

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
74-24-22-46-34

After being bought out by Buffalo, he's in a much better scoring situation in Edmonton.



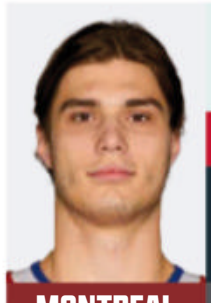
46 BRADY SKJEI

GP 80 G 15 A 31

NASHVILLE | CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
80-13-34-47-40

Has developed a goal-scoring touch over the past couple of years. A terrific shot helps.



74 JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY

GP 80 G 32 A 42

MONTREAL | CAP HIT: $950,000

POS LW **AGE** 20
2023-24 STATS
82-20-30-50-55

Breakout came in second half (16 goals, 35 points) with move up to first line and top PP.

38 JACCOB SLAVIN

GP 80 G 7 A 31

CAROLINA | CAP HIT: $5,300,000

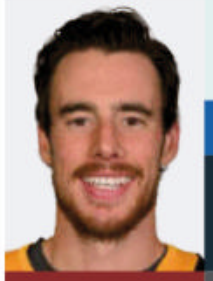
POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
81-6-31-37-8

Doesn't get much PP time, but he's a good scorer at even-strength and shorthanded.

SKATERS

SMITH-TAVARES

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE



39 REILLY SMITH

GP 75 G 15 A 24

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 33
2023-24 STATS
76-13-27-40-18

Wasn't a good fit in Pittsburgh, but he adds playoff experience for the Rangers.

49 WILL SMITH

GP 80 G 15 A 34

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS C **AGE** 19
'23-24 NCAA STATS
41-25-46-71-14

The NCAA's leading scorer should have top-six and power-play roles in San Jose.

42 DANIEL SPRONG

GP 73 G 17 A 25

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $975,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
76-18-25-43-22

Yet another prove-it deal for Sprong, but he should be safe for 40 points.

74 STEVEN STAMKOS

GP 80 G 36 A 38

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
79-40-41-81-34

Forty goals at 34 is impressive. Scoring 40 in his mid-30s in Nashville? Even more difficult.

57 LOGAN STANKOVEN

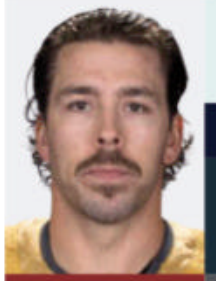
GP 80 G 22 A 35

DALLAS

CAP HIT: $814,167

POS C **AGE** 21
2023-24 AHL STATS
47-24-33-57-26

Little sparkplug will be an integral part of the Dallas offense for many years to come.



59 CHANDLER STEPHENSON

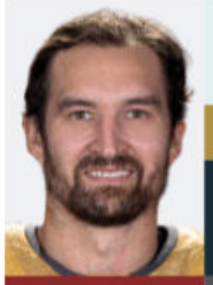
GP 80 G 20 A 39

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS C **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
75-16-35-51-25

A late bloomer who exploded to average 60 points per year the past three seasons.



45 MARK STONE

GP 65 G 20 A 25

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
56-16-37-53-22

Constant injury concern, at least until the playoffs. Don't bother investing much.

68 DYLAN STROME

GP 80 G 23 A 45

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
82-27-40-67-22

Washington's top center is going to spend a lot of his time passing the puck to Ovechkin.

41 RYAN STROME

GP 80 G 13 A 28

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
79-11-30-41-86

Had 41 points in each of his two seasons in Anaheim. We'll just go with that.

85 TIM STUTZLE

GP 78 G 35 A 50

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $8,350,000

POS LW **AGE** 22
2023-24 STATS
75-18-52-70-28

Took a step back...way back. But a drop from 39 goals to 18 is fixable when you're 22.

37 PIUS SUTER

GP 72 G 15 A 22

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $1,600,000

POS C **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
67-14-15-29-16

Mostly just filler, but he has still potted 14 or 15 goals in each of his four NHL seasons.

74 NICK SUZUKI

GP 82 G 32 A 42

MONTREAL

CAP HIT: $7,875,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
82-33-44-77-36

For one thing, he never misses a game; for another, he's on the top line and power play.

70 ANDREI SVECHNIKOV

GP 75 G 34 A 36

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $7,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
59-19-33-52-58

Injuries have prevented him from equalling his career-best 30-goal season from 2021-22.

52 VLADIMIR TARASENKO

GP 71 G 22 A 30

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
76-23-32-55-12

Not the player he once was. Still has value, but it becomes riskier with each new team.

57 JOHN TAVARES

GP 80 G 27 A 30

TORONTO

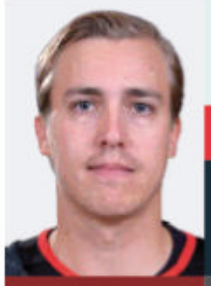
CAP HIT: $11,000,000

POS C **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
80-29-36-65-30

Maybe he's slowing down a bit, but he wasn't that fast to begin with.

SKATERS

TERAVAINEN-TUCH



58 TEUVO TERAVAINEN

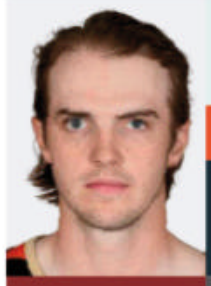
GP 76 G 23 A 35

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $5,400,000

POS LW **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
76-25-28-53-10

One of the candidates to be Bedard's linemate, so he'll be there at least part of the time.



55 TROY TERRY

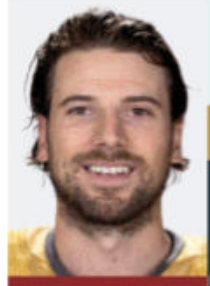
GP 75 G 25 A 30

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $7,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
76-20-34-54-24

Very reliable. Top-six winger has been consistent point producer for three straight years.



53 SHEA THEODORE

GP 71 G 12 A 41

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $5,200,000

POS D **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
47-5-37-42-6

Top power-play option, but he's often injured and can be replaced by several Knights.

77 ROBERT THOMAS

GP 80 G 22 A 55

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $8,125,000

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
82-26-60-86-48

Scoring 19 more points than the second-place guy on your team, as he did, is impressive.

72 TAGE THOMPSON

GP 77 G 41 A 31

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $7,142,857

POS C **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
71-29-27-56-43

Goals the past three years: 38, 47, 29. He should be scoring 40, so let's put him back up.

59 OWEN TIPPETT

GP 79 G 32 A 27

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $6,200,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
78-28-25-53-12

Had 45 more shots than any other Flyer last year. He should hit 30-goal mark this year.

80 BRADY TKACHUK

GP 81 G 35 A 45

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $8,205,714

POS LW **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
81-37-37-74-134

You know what you're getting with a Tkachuk, and there's nothing not to like.

101 MATTHEW TKACHUK

GP 80 G 38 A 63

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS LW **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
80-26-62-88-88

Could easily return to the 100-point level with a return to his normal goal-scoring.

50 DEVON TOEWS

GP 81 G 10 A 40

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $7,250,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-12-38-50-18

Only had four fewer even-strength points than Makar. Plus, he's on second PP unit.

57 TYLER TOFFOLI

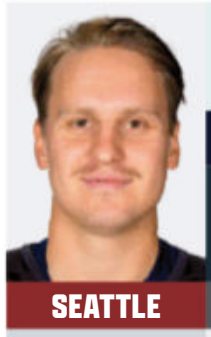
GP 80 G 32 A 25

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS RW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
79-33-22-55-14

His past two seasons have been among his best. Maybe he's improving with age.



40 EELI TOLVANEN

GP 78 G 18 A 22

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $3,475,000

POS RW **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
81-16-25-41-24

Had 27 points in the first half, then just 14 in the second half. Which one is the real him?

74 VINCENT TROCHECK

GP 82 G 24 A 50

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $5,625,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
82-25-52-77-55

He's a regular linemate of Panarin, which is a little like winning the lottery.

31 JACOB TROUBA

GP 71 G 7 A 24

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $8,000,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
69-3-19-22-73

You'd need a deep, deep draft to get to him, but he's not a stranger to the scoresheet.

39 MAXIM TSYPLAKOV

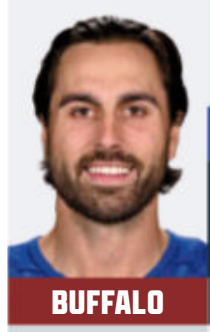
GP 80 G 18 A 21

NY ISLANDERS

CAP HIT: $950,000

POS RW **AGE** 26
2023-24 KHL STATS
65-31-16-47-35

The 26-year-old was mediocre in the KHL until 2023-24. Potential deep sleeper.



68 ALEX TUCH

GP 76 G 27 A 41

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS RW **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
75-22-37-59-54

Coming off a poor season (for him), but like other Sabres, he should bounce back up.

SKATERS

VATRANO-ZUCKER

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

45

GP 81 G 25 A 20

FRANK VATRANO

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $3,650,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-37-23-60-85

Career goal-scoring years at 30 aren't repeated. Look for goals in the 20s, not the 30s.

72

GP 78 G 37 A 35

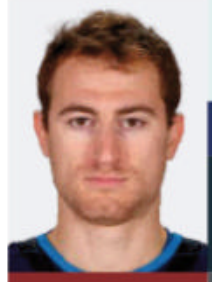
CARTER VERHAEGHE

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $4,166,667

POS C **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
76-34-38-72-36

A third-round pick by the Leafs back in 2013 is now a back-to-back 70-point scorer.



53

GP 78 G 32 A 21

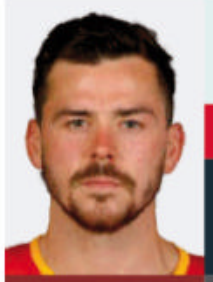
GABE VILARDI

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $3,437,500

POS C **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
47-22-14-36-14

Power-play sniper will light it up if he can stay healthy. He's worth the risk for us.



40

GP 81 G 10 A 30

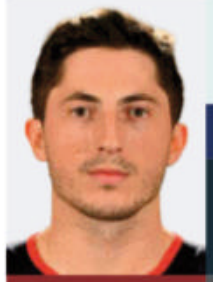
MACKENZIE WEEGAR

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $6,250,000

POS D **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
82-20-32-52-51

His 17 even-strength goals led all NHL defensemen last year. Not close to repeatable.



56

GP 72 G 15 A 41

ZACH WERENSKI

COLUMBUS

CAP HIT: $9,583,333

POS D **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
70-11-46-57-22

He's a double-digit goal-scorer when healthy. It's a worry, but it's worth the gamble.

41

GP 75 G 20 A 21

TOM WILSON

WASHINGTON

CAP HIT: $6,500,000

POS RW **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
74-18-17-35-133

Comes with a suspension and injury risk, so no need to bother unless it's a late round.

33

GP 80 G 10 A 23

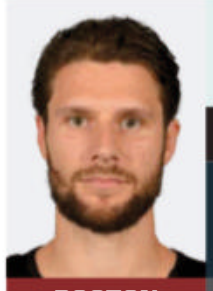
CAM YORK

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $1,600,000

POS D **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
82-10-20-30-44

Gets a ton of ice time and has offensive ability, but doesn't get first-unit PP guarantee.



56

GP 80 G 21 A 35

PAVEL ZACHA

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS C **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
78-21-38-59-18

His two seasons in Boston have been similar and are his two best seasons overall.

45

GP 78 G 20 A 25

CONNOR ZARY

CALGARY

CAP HIT: $863,334

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
63-14-20-34-22

Showed poise and maturity as a rookie. His ceiling is still to be determined.

63

GP 80 G 23 A 40

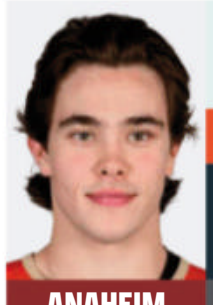
TREVOR ZEGRAS

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $5,750,000

POS C **AGE** 23
2023-24 STATS
31-6-9-15-30

Last year was a write-off with injuries. Expect a big rebound, but maybe not in Anaheim.



44

GP 78 G 12 A 32

OLEN ZELLWEGER

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $844,167

POS D **AGE** 21
2023-24 AHL STATS
44-12-25-37-16

Late in the year, he was getting a lot of (NHL) power-play point time. It's a good sign.

40

GP 80 G 18 A 22

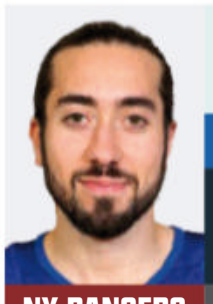
FABIAN ZETTERLUND

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $1,450,000

POS LW **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
82-24-20-44-33

Played in the top six by default last season, and he will probably do so again this year.



80

GP 81 G 30 A 50

MIKA ZIBANEJAD

NY RANGERS

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS C **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
81-26-46-72-30

He's been in the 70s, 80s and 90s the past three years and has only missed two games.

65

GP 75 G 15 A 50

MATS ZUCCARELLO

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $4,125,000

POS RW **AGE** 37
2023-24 STATS
69-12-51-63-30

No more 20-goal seasons, but points are still decent thanks to a regular power-play spot.

36

GP 74 G 18 A 18

JASON ZUCKER

BUFFALO

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS LW **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
69-14-18-32-81

He's a third-liner all day long and puts up slightly better than third-liner points.

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THE SECRET IN SELECTING goalies for your fantasy league is to focus on busy No. 1 stoppers on winning teams. Here are the top 60 goalies in projected wins for 2024-25. If you want even more options, consult our checklist section on page 214.

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

FANTASY GUIDE

GOALIES

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THATCHER DEMKO

GOALIES

ALLEN-FORSBERG

17 JAKE ALLEN

GAA 2.93 SP .902

NEW JERSEY

CAP HIT: $1,925,000

POS G **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
12-18-4, 3.44, .895

He's no longer a No. 1, but he won't be asked to be, and he's a cut above a regular backup.

27 FREDERIK ANDERSEN

GAA 2.31 SP .912

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $3,400,000

POS G **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
13-2-0, 1.84, .932

Overcame serious injuries to be very effective. Question is, how many games will he play?

12 JUSTUS ANNUNEN

GAA 2.71 SP .910

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $837,500

POS G **AGE** 24
2023-24 AHL STATS
14-5-4, 2.65, .908

Has been very good in a small sample size, but his fantasy upside as a backup is limited.

20 YAROSLAV ASKAROV

GAA 2.50 SP .911

NASHVILLE

CAP HIT: $925,000

POS G **AGE** 22
2023-24 AHL STATS
30-13-1, 2.39, .911

With Saros locked in, Askarov is trade bait. A good future keeper, but monitor his status.

27 JORDAN BINNINGTON

GAA 2.60 SP .910

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $6,000,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
28-21-5, 2.84, .913

With a quality backup in Hofer, he doesn't need to play as often. That helps.

16 MACKENZIE BLACKWOOD

GAA 3.22 SP .901

SAN JOSE

CAP HIT: $2,350,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
10-25-4, 3.45, .899

You're not going to take a goalie on one of the league's worst teams. Maybe next year.

33 SERGEI BOBROVSKY

GAA 2.41 SP .912

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $10,000,000

POS G **AGE** 36
2023-24 STATS
36-17-4, 2.37, .915

Has played at least 50 games 10 times in his career. Not ready to slow down yet.

14 LAURENT BROSSOIT

GAA 3.02 SP .906

CHICAGO

CAP HIT: $3,300,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
15-5-2, 2.00, .927

There are going to be a lot of long nights in Chicago, so he'll get plenty of playing time.

22 JOEY DACCORD

GAA 2.45 SP .912

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $1,200,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
19-18-11, 2.46, .916

Sensational season lifted him to the No. 1 role in Seattle. Expect an encore.

39 THATCHER DEMKO

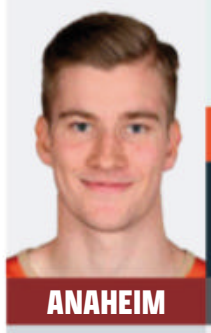
GAA 2.51 SP .915

VANCOUVER

CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
35-14-2, 2.45, .918

Second-best SP for goalies with 50-plus games. Should be near the top of your list.



17 LUKAS DOSTAL

GAA 3.14 SP .903

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $812,500

POS G **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
14-23-3, 3.33, .902

At this point, he's earned at least a job-sharing role in the Anaheim crease.

17 SAMUEL ERSSON

GAA 2.87 SP .901

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $1,450,000

POS G **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
23-19-7, 2.82, .890

Played the most games in the Flyers' net last year by default, but he won't be No. 1 this year.

27 IVAN FEDOTOV

GAA 2.45 SP .912

PHILADELPHIA

CAP HIT: $3,275,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 KHL STATS
21-22-1, 2.37, .914

Huge KHL vet gets a chance to make a huge impact this year. Meet your sleeper goalie.

13 MARC-ANDRE FLEURY

GAA 2.78 SP .901

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS G **AGE** 39
2023-24 STATS
17-15-5, 2.98, .895

Final NHL season of great career. His 561 wins are second all-time, behind only Brodeur.

11 ANTON FORSBERG

GAA 3.05 SP .902

OTTAWA

CAP HIT: $2,750,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
15-12-0, 3.21, .890

His days of vying for a No. 1 job are over, and even a backup role is iffy for him.

GOALIES

GEORGIEV-KUEMPER

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

34

GAA 2.88 SP .903

ALEXANDAR GEORGIEV

COLORADO

CAP HIT: $3,400,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
38-18-5, 3.02, .897

A disappointing season puts Georgiev at risk with just one year left on his contract.

17

GAA 3.25 SP .901

JOHN GIBSON

ANAHEIM

CAP HIT: $6,400,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
13-27-2, 3.54, .888

Too many poor seasons in a row nullifies his good earlier years. Losing starts to Dostal.

19

GAA 3.05 SP .898

PHILIPP GRUBAUER

SEATTLE

CAP HIT: $5,900,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
14-16-2, 2.85, .899

Three mediocre seasons in Seattle. Gets paid as a No. 1 but hasn't played like it.

22

GAA 2.58 SP .906

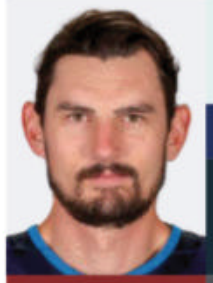
FILIP GUSTAVSSON

MINNESOTA

CAP HIT: $3,750,000

POS G **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
20-18-4, 3.06, .899

Save percentage dropping to .899 from .931 is alarming, but there's potential for a rebound.



36

GAA 2.44 SP .920

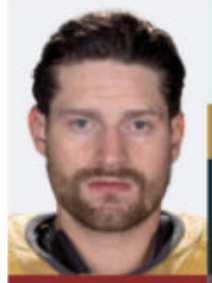
CONNOR HELLEBUYCK

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $8,500,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
37-19-4, 2.39, .921

Five seasons of 60 games, and he boasted best SP among starters last year (min. 41 GP).



32

GAA 2.57 SP .911

ADIN HILL

VEGAS

CAP HIT: $4,900,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
19-12-2, 2.71, .909

He's now the top goalie option on the Golden Knights and due to start more games.

18

GAA 2.51 SP .912

JOEL HOFER

ST. LOUIS

CAP HIT: $775,000

POS G **AGE** 24
2023-24 STATS
15-12-1, 2.65, .914

If the NHL had an award for best backup of the year, he'd be in the running.

15

GAA 3.06 SP .905

VILLE HUSSO

DETROIT

CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
9-5-2, 3.55, .892

He's on thin ice due to injuries and poor play, but he's signed for another year.

26

GAA 2.67 SP .907

CONNOR INGRAM

UTAH

CAP HIT: $1,950,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
23-21-3, 2.91, .907

Took over as the team's top choice last year, but expect it to still be about a 60/40 split.

25

GAA 2.88 SP .905

TRISTAN JARRY

PITTSBURGH

CAP HIT: $5,375,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
19-25-5, 2.91, .903

Didn't live up to his salary in the first of a five-year deal. Looking to bounce back.

11

GAA 2.91 SP .905

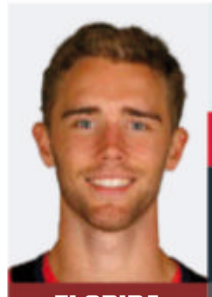
KAAPO KAHKONEN

WINNIPEG

CAP HIT: $1,000,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
7-24-3, 3.64, .898

He's had some decent seasons, but for now, he can only be considered a backup.



16

GAA 2.53 SP .907

SPENCER KNIGHT

FLORIDA

CAP HIT: $4,500,000

POS G **AGE** 23
2023-24 AHL STATS
25-14-5, 2.41, .905

After a good minor-league season, he's ready to return to the NHL on a full-time basis.

21

GAA 2.44 SP .909

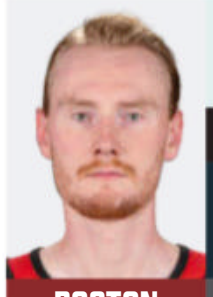
PYOTR KOCHETKOV

CAROLINA

CAP HIT: $2,000,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
23-13-4, 2.33, .911

Fared so well in fill-in duty in 2023-24 that he's going to play fairly often this season.



15

GAA 2.67 SP .910

JOONAS KORPISALO

BOSTON

CAP HIT: $3,000,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
21-26-4, 3.27, .890

Huge disappointment in Ottawa, but life will be easier as a backup in Boston.

29

GAA 2.52 SP .910

DARCY KUEMPER

LOS ANGELES

CAP HIT: $5,250,000

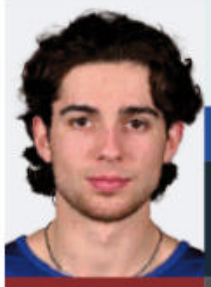
POS G **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
13-14-3, 3.31, .890

Gets to be No. 1 in Los Angeles after losing that position to Lindgren in Washington.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

GOALIES

LEVI-SHESTERKIN

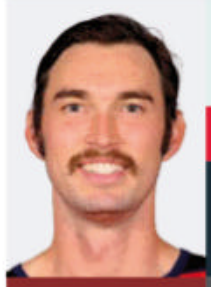


10 DEVON LEVI

BUFFALO | GAA 2.61 SP .904 | CAP HIT: $925,000

POS G **AGE** 22
2023-24 AHL STATS
16-6-4, 2.42, .927

Up-and-comer will sit a lot as he waits his turn for more big-league playing time.

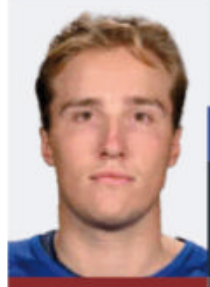


20 CHARLIE LINDGREN

WASHINGTON | GAA 3.02 SP .905 | CAP HIT: $1,100,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
25-16-7, 2.67, .911

He's 30 and has had one good NHL season (2023-24). It's best not to rely on that.



28 UKKO-PEKKA LUUKKONEN

BUFFALO | GAA 2.48 SP .909 | CAP HIT: $4,750,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
27-22-4, 2.57, .910

Worked his way up to No. 1 duty last season, but Levi is also good and needs to play.

20 ALEX LYON

DETROIT | GAA 2.98 SP .906 | CAP HIT: $900,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
21-18-5, 3.05, .904

He's a bargain at his salary, but trouble with the heavy workload proves he's a backup.

25 JACOB MARKSTROM

NEW JERSEY | GAA 2.84 SP .906 | CAP HIT: $4,125,000

POS G **AGE** 34
2023-24 STATS
23-23-2, 2.78, .905

Solves Devils' goaltending issues and gets a fresh start himself, so it's a win-win.

15 ELVIS MERZLIKINS

COLUMBUS | GAA 3.28 SP .900 | CAP HIT: $5,400,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
13-17-8, 3.45, .897

Has three years remaining on pricey contract, which may be the only thing saving his job.

21 SAM MONTEMBEAULT

MONTREAL | GAA 2.89 SP .905 | CAP HIT: $3,150,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
16-15-9, 3.14, .903

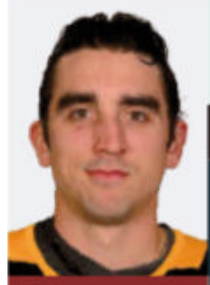
Competent enough for half the games. Starting three-year extension signed last December.

24 PETR MRAZEK

CHICAGO | GAA 3.15 SP .906 | CAP HIT: $4,250,000

POS G **AGE** 32
2023-24 STATS
18-31-4, 3.05, .908

Blackhawks signed him to extension, so they must like what they see from him.



20 ALEX NEDELJKOVIC

PITTSBURGH | GAA 2.81 SP .905 | CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
18-7-7, 2.97, .902

Took over the top role in Pittsburgh down the stretch last year. A sleeper.

38 JAKE OETTINGER

DALLAS | GAA 2.48 SP .910 | CAP HIT: $4,000,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
35-14-4, 2.72, .905

One of the league's best goalies will be among those with the most games played.

20 CAYDEN PRIMEAU

MONTREAL | GAA 2.72 SP .907 | CAP HIT: $890,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
8-9-4, 2.99, .910

He's put in his time and shown he's good enough to share the net in Montreal.

15 JONATHAN QUICK

NY RANGERS | GAA 2.79 SP .909 | CAP HIT: $1,275,000

POS G **AGE** 38
2023-24 STATS
18-6-2, 2.62, .911

He's a nice story at 38 and a very nice backup. Perfect fit for the powerhouse Rangers.

16 ILYA SAMSONOV

VEGAS | GAA 2.68 SP .907 | CAP HIT: $1,800,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
23-7-8, 3.13, .890

A backup now – but one with No. 1 experience – so he should play a fair amount.

34 JUUSE SAROS

NASHVILLE | GAA 2.48 SP .910 | CAP HIT: $5,000,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
35-24-5, 2.86, .906

Even with Askarov on the cusp, Saros re-upped to eight-year extension kicking in in 2025.

37 IGOR SHESTERKIN

NY RANGERS | GAA 2.51 SP .915 | CAP HIT: $5,666,667

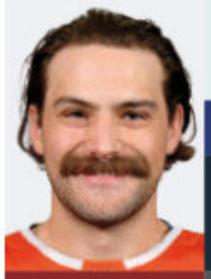
POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
36-17-2, 2.58, .913

One of the league's best. Will play a lot and put up great numbers across the board.

GOALIES

SKINNER-WOLL

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE



37

EDMONTON OILERS

GAA 2.35 SP .910

STUART SKINNER

EDMONTON | CAP HIT: $2,600,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
36-16-5, 2.62, .905

Somewhat of a goaltending savior. He's a 50-plus gamer as Edmonton's No. 1.

30

NY ISLANDERS

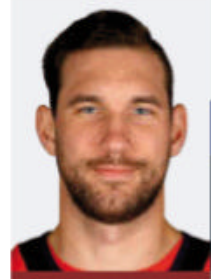
GAA 2.33 SP .917

ILYA SOROKIN

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $8,250,000

POS G **AGE** 29
2023-24 STATS
25-19-12, 3.01, .909

Fell so far out of favor he wasn't even the playoff choice. One bad year, back to normal.



18

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

GAA 2.45 SP .912

ANTHONY STOLARZ

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
16-7-2, 2.03, .925

He's a top-quality backup with a lot of experience at the pro level and a lot of size, too.

30

BOSTON BRUINS

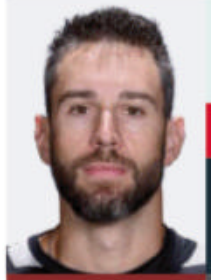
GAA 2.46 SP .915

JEREMY SWAYMAN

BOSTON | CAP HIT: RFA

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
25-10-8, 2.53, .916

He's no longer just a No. 1A goalie; he's top dog and will play majority of the games.



8

DETROIT RED WINGS

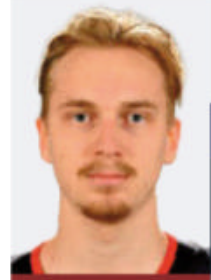
GAA 2.79 SP .909

CAM TALBOT

DETROIT | CAP HIT: $2,500,000

POS G **AGE** 37
2023-24 STATS
27-20-6, 2.50, .913

He was superb at 36, but at 37, he won't come close to playing 50 games again.



5

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

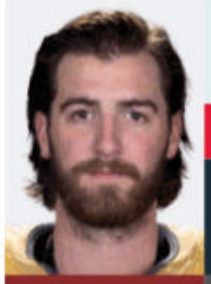
GAA 3.01 SP .905

DANIIL TARASOV

COLUMBUS | CAP HIT: $1,050,000

POS G **AGE** 25
2023-24 STATS
8-11-3, 3.18, .908

Frequent injuries make it hard for him to even be counted on as a reliable backup.



23

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

GAA 2.85 SP .907

LOGAN THOMPSON

WASHINGTON | CAP HIT: $766,667

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
25-14-5, 2.70, .908

After splitting the goaltending job in Vegas, he now gets to split in Washington.

27

OTTAWA SENATORS

GAA 2.86 SP .907

LINUS ULLMARK

OTTAWA | CAP HIT: 5,000,000

POS G **AGE** 31
2023-24 STATS
22-10-7, 2.57, .915

He had a great run in Boston, but being the savior in Ottawa's crease won't be easy.

12

SAN JOSE SHARKS

GAA 3.12 SP .904

VITEK VANECEK

SAN JOSE | CAP HIT: $3,400,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
17-9-3, 3.18, .890

Will start off as a backup, but on teams as weak as San Jose, backups get plenty of work.

15

NY ISLANDERS

GAA 2.57 SP .913

SEMYON VARLAMOV

NY ISLANDERS | CAP HIT: $2,750,000

POS G **AGE** 36
2023-24 STATS
14-8-4, 2.60, .918

Despite being superior to Sorokin last season, he's still going to be the backup.

38

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

GAA 2.49 SP .912

ANDREI VASILEVSKIY

TAMPA BAY | CAP HIT: $9,500,000

POS G **AGE** 30
2023-24 STATS
30-20-2, 2.90, .900

After returning from back surgery, he wasn't his usual great self. But he will be this year.

15

UTAH HOCKEY CLUB

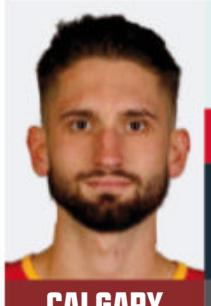
GAA 3.15 SP .901

KAREL VEJMELKA

UTAH | CAP HIT: $2,725,000

POS G **AGE** 28
2023-24 STATS
13-19-2, 3.35, .897

Not quite 50/50 playing time, but not far behind Ingram. Team is improving, too.



15

CALGARY FLAMES

GAA 2.95 SP .903

DAN VLADAR

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $2,200,000

POS G **AGE** 27
2023-24 STATS
8-9-2, 3.62, .882

He's a career backup at best. He hasn't done anything to prove otherwise at this point.

23

CALGARY FLAMES

GAA 3.23 SP .900

DUSTIN WOLF

CALGARY | CAP HIT: $850,000

POS G **AGE** 23
2023-24 AHL STATS
20-12-3, 2.45, .922

The heir apparent to the Calgary goalie kingdom takes the throne as soon as now.

33

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

GAA 2.62 SP .907

JOSEPH WOLL

TORONTO | CAP HIT: $766,667

POS G **AGE** 26
2023-24 STATS
12-11-1, 2.94, .907

He's the No. 1 in Toronto, but staying healthy is a concern until he proves otherwise.

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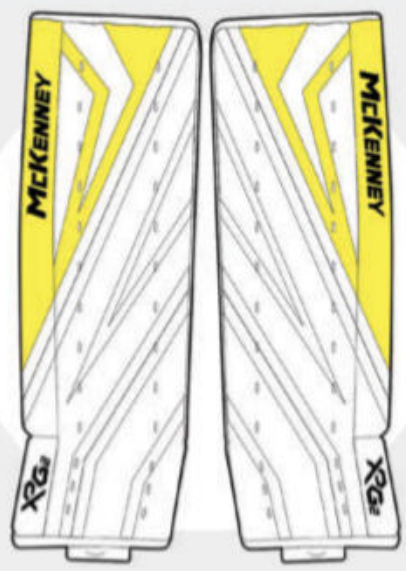

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SKATERS PROJECTED TOTALS FANTASY CHECKLIST

SKATER AND GOALIE PROJECTIONS FOR 2024-25 ARE PROVIDED BY FANTASY EXPERT MURRAY TOWNSEND. PROJECTIONS FOR MORE THAN 600 SKATERS ARE IN NHL TEAM PREVIEWS ON THE POINTS-O-METER

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
		(DEFENSEMAN)				
1.	Connor McDavid, Edm		80	47	90	137
2.	Nikita Kucherov, TB		80	40	85	125
3.	Nathan MacKinnon, Col		80	50	74	124
4.	Leon Draisaitl, Edm		80	51	70	121
5.	David Pastrnak, Bos		82	50	60	110
6.	Artemi Panarin, NYR		82	37	70	107
7.	Mikko Rantanen, Col		81	50	55	105
8.	Kirill Kaprizov, Min		78	50	55	105
9.	Matthew Tkachuk, Fla		80	38	63	101
10.	Mitch Marner, Tor		78	33	68	101
11.	Auston Matthews, Tor		80	55	45	100
12.	J.T. Miller, Van		81	35	65	100
13.	William Nylander, Tor		82	40	55	95
14.	Cale Makar, Col	D	77	23	72	95
15.	Brayden Point, TB		80	50	44	94
16.	Elias Pettersson, Van		80	35	58	93
17.	Sidney Crosby, Pit		82	38	53	91
18.	Jack Hughes, NJ		72	35	55	90
19.	Jason Robertson, Dal		82	36	52	88
20.	Sebastian Aho, Car		77	37	50	87
21.	Aleksander Barkov, Fla		78	25	61	86
22.	Quinn Hughes, Van	D	80	15	71	86
23.	Tim Stutzle, Ott		78	35	50	85
24.	Jake Guentzel, TB		77	37	47	84
25.	Sam Reinhart, Fla		82	45	38	83
26.	Lucas Raymond, Det		82	36	46	82
27.	Adam Fox, NYR	D	82	20	62	82
28.	Filip Forsberg, Nsh		77	41	40	81
29.	Connor Bedard, Chi		80	35	45	80
30.	Brady Tkachuk, Ott		81	35	45	80
31.	Clayton Keller, Uth		80	35	45	80
32.	Jesper Bratt, NJ		82	30	50	80
33.	Mika Zibanejad, NYR		81	30	50	80
34.	Roman Josi, Nsh	D	80	20	60	80
35.	Dylan Larkin, Det		80	35	42	77
36.	Robert Thomas, StL		80	22	55	77
37.	Evan Bouchard, Edm	D	81	15	62	77

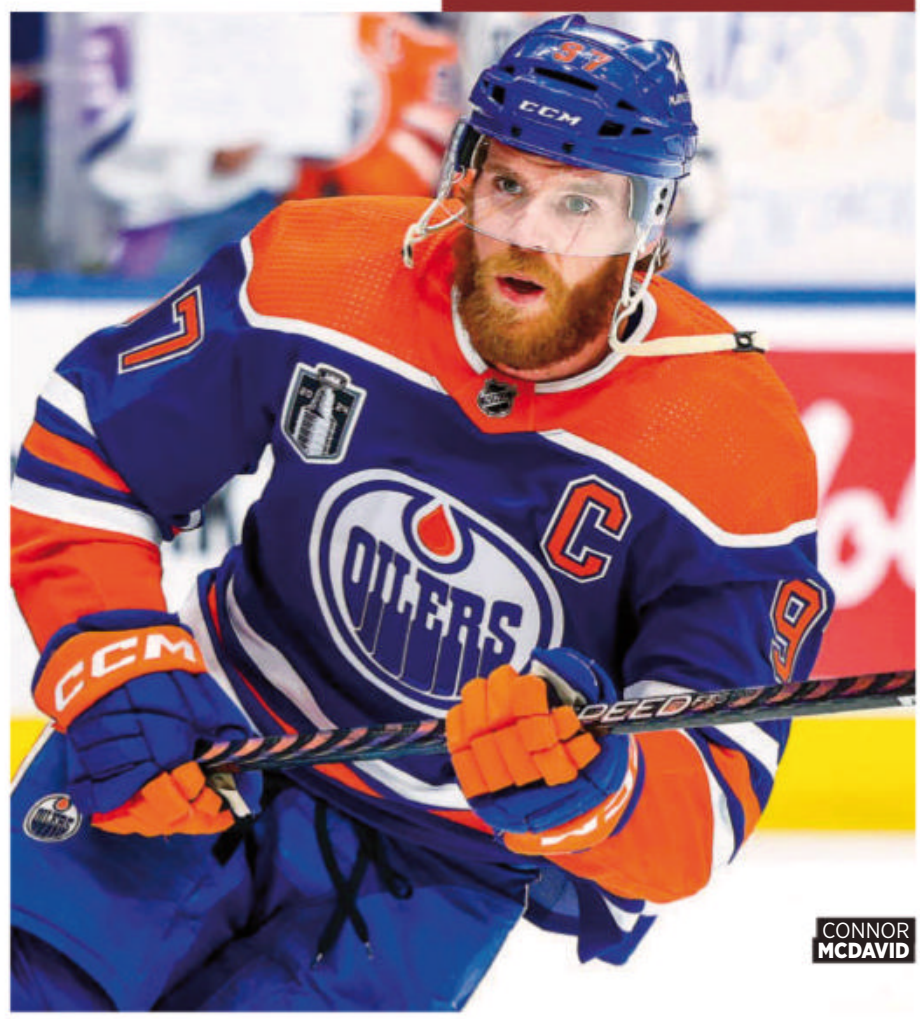
	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
		(DEFENSEMAN)				
38.	Kyle Connor, Wpg		78	35	41	76
39.	Zach Hyman, Edm		80	41	34	75
40.	Nico Hischier, NJ		75	30	45	75
41.	Johnny Gaudreau, Clb		81	20	55	75
42.	Wyatt Johnston, Dal		82	37	37	74
43.	Steven Stamkos, Nsh		80	36	38	74
44.	Juraj Slafkovsky, Mtl		80	32	42	74
45.	Nick Suzuki, Mtl		82	32	42	74
46.	Vincent Trocheck, NYR		82	24	50	74
47.	Bo Horvat, NYI		77	41	32	73
48.	Matt Boldy, Min		79	31	42	73
49.	Josh Morrissey, Wpg	D	80	15	58	73
50.	Tage Thompson, Buf		77	41	31	72
51.	Cole Caufield, Mtl		78	41	31	72
52.	Carter Verhaeghe, Fla		78	37	35	72
53.	Jordan Kyrou, StL		80	34	38	72
54.	Jack Eichel, Veg		68	32	40	72
55.	Kevin Fiala, LA		80	30	41	71
56.	Mark Scheifele, Wpg		77	30	41	71
57.	Mat Barzal, NYI		80	20	51	71
58.	Seth Jarvis, Car		80	35	35	70
59.	Brock Nelson, NYI		82	35	35	70
60.	Andrei Svechnikov, Car		75	34	36	70
61.	Adrian Kempe, LA		79	34	36	70
62.	Roope Hintz, Dal		78	33	37	70
63.	Drake Batherson, Ott		82	30	40	70
64.	Brandon Hagel, TB		80	30	40	70
65.	Elias Lindholm, Bos		80	24	46	70
66.	Noah Dobson, NYI	D	80	13	57	70
67.	Travis Konecny, Phi		78	36	33	69
68.	Pavel Buchnevich, StL		79	28	41	69
69.	Alex DeBrincat, Det		82	30	38	68
70.	Alex Tuch, Buf		76	27	41	68
71.	Dylan Strome, Wsh		80	23	45	68
72.	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Edm		80	22	46	68
73.	Timo Meier, NJ		76	36	31	67
74.	Joel Eriksson Ek, Min		78	32	35	67

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

SKATERS

PROJECTED TOTALS

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
75.	Brock Boeser, Van		72	32	35	67
76.	Nazem Kadri, Cgy		80	25	41	66
77.	Patrick Kane, Det		75	25	41	66
78.	Chris Kreider, NYR		80	37	28	65
79.	Bryan Rust, Pit		80	30	35	65
80.	Quinton Byfield, LA		80	26	39	65
81.	Anze Kopitar, LA		80	25	40	65
82.	Ryan O'Reilly, Nsh		81	25	40	65
83.	Gustav Nyquist, Nsh		80	20	45	65
84.	Mats Zuccarello, Min		75	15	50	65
85.	Erik Karlsson, Pit	D	80	12	53	65
86.	Morgan Rielly, Tor	D	75	10	55	65
87.	Dylan Guenther, Uth		80	33	31	64
88.	Matty Beniers, Sea		80	25	39	64
89.	Alex Ovechkin, Wsh		78	42	21	63
90.	Brad Marchand, Bos		77	31	32	63
91.	Martin Necas, Car		79	31	32	63
92.	Trevor Zegras, Ana		80	23	40	63
93.	Rasmus Dahlin, Buf	D	80	18	45	63
94.	Victor Hedman, TB	D	80	11	52	63
95.	Miro Heiskanen, Dal	D	75	10	52	62
96.	Alexis Lafreniere, NYR		80	30	31	61
97.	Jonathan Marchessault, Nsh		79	31	29	60
98.	Mason McTavish, Ana		80	27	33	60
99.	Sean Monahan, Clb		70	26	34	60
100.	Evgeni Malkin, Pit		78	25	35	60
101.	Nikolaj Ehlers, Wpg		78	25	35	60
102.	Pierre-Luc Dubois, Wsh		82	25	35	60
103.	Owen Tippett, Phi		79	32	27	59
104.	Tomas Hertl, Veg		77	25	34	59
105.	Michael Bunting, Pit		80	23	36	59
106.	Chandler Stephenson, Sea		80	20	39	59
107.	Matias Maccelli, Uth		81	15	44	59
108.	Moritz Seider, Det	D	82	12	47	59
109.	Josh Norris, Ott		70	30	28	58
110.	Dylan Cozens, Buf		80	25	33	58
111.	Andrei Kuzmenko, Cgy		73	25	33	58
112.	Luke Evangelista, Nsh		81	25	33	58
113.	Connor McMichael, Wsh		80	25	33	58
114.	Teuvo Teravainen, Chi		76	23	35	58
115.	Nick Schmaltz, Uth		78	23	35	58
116.	Kirby Dach, Mtl		70	21	37	58
117.	Tyler Toffoli, SJ		80	32	25	57
118.	John Tavares, Tor		80	27	30	57
119.	William Eklund, SJ		81	23	34	57
120.	Logan Stankoven,Dal		80	22	35	57
121.	Morgan Frost, Phi		80	22	35	57
122.	Casey Mittelstadt, Col		80	17	40	57
123.	Jonathan Huberdeau, Cgy		80	15	42	57



	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
124.	Mikael Granlund, SJ		80	15	42	57
125.	Jack Quinn, Buf		75	25	31	56
126.	Brayden Schenn, StL		82	22	34	56
127.	Pavel Zacha, Bos		80	21	35	56
128.	Zach Werenski, Clb	D	72	15	41	56
129.	Dougie Hamilton, NJ	D	78	14	42	56
130.	Shayne Gostisbehere, Car	D	80	12	44	56
131.	Vince Dunn, Sea	D	78	12	44	56
132.	Mike Matheson, Mtl	D	79	11	45	56
133.	Jeff Skinner, Edm		78	29	26	55
134.	Troy Terry, Ana		75	25	30	55
135.	Yegor Sharangovich, Cgy		80	25	30	55
136.	Matt Duchene, Dal		75	22	33	55
137.	Claude Giroux, Ott		82	20	35	55
138.	Filip Hronek, Van	D	78	10	45	55
139.	Jared McCann, Sea		80	27	27	54
140.	Logan Cooley, Uth		80	24	30	54
141.	Adam Fantilli, Clb		78	23	31	54
142.	Alex Newhook, Mtl		78	23	31	54
143.	Max Domi, Tor		80	13	41	54
144.	Gabe Vilardi, Wpg		78	32	21	53
145.	Viktor Arvidsson, Edm		71	22	31	53
146.	Sean Couturier, Phi		72	18	35	53
147.	Shea Theodore, Veg	D	71	12	41	53
148.	Tyler Seguin, Dal		75	24	28	52
149.	Macklin Celebrini, SJ		80	24	28	52
150.	Vladimir Tarasenko, Det		71	22	30	52

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

SKATERS

PROJECTED TOTALS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
151.	Oliver Bjorkstrand, Sea		81	22	30	52
152.	Matvei Michkov, Phi		78	26	25	51
153.	Jamie Benn, Dal		82	20	31	51
154.	Drew Doughty, LA	D	80	11	40	51
155.	Cutter Gauthier, Ana		78	27	23	50
156.	Patrik Laine, Clb		65	25	25	50
157.	Trevor Moore, LA		81	25	25	50
158.	Dawson Mercer, NJ		82	25	25	50
159.	Alex Killorn, Ana		81	24	26	50
160.	Cole Perfetti, Wpg		78	23	27	50
161.	Devon Toews, Col	D	81	10	40	50
162.	Artturi Lehkonen, Col		65	22	27	49
163.	David Perron, Ott		78	18	31	49
164.	William Karlsson, Veg		75	18	31	49
165.	Taylor Hall, Chi		70	16	33	49
166.	Will Smith, SJ		80	15	34	49
167.	Charlie McAvoy, Bos	D	72	10	39	49
168.	Jake Sanderson, Ott	D	78	10	39	49
169.	John Carlson, Wsh	D	78	8	41	49
170.	Boone Jenner, Clb		73	25	23	48
171.	JJ Peterka, Buf		82	23	25	48
172.	Valeri Nichushkin, Col		57	23	25	48
173.	Marco Rossi, Min		80	23	25	48
174.	Gabriel Landeskog, Col		50	20	28	48
175.	Charlie Coyle, Bos		82	18	30	48
176.	Nicolas Roy, Veg		75	18	30	48
177.	Mikhail Sergachev, Uth	D	78	10	38	48
178.	Jake DeBrusk, Van		74	25	22	47
179.	Logan Couture, SJ		65	22	25	47
180.	Barrett Hayton, Uth		77	22	25	47
181.	Ivan Barbashev, Veg		81	22	25	47
182.	Matthew Knies, Tor		80	20	27	47
183.	Phillip Danault, LA		80	14	33	47
184.	Thomas Harley, Dal	D	80	12	35	47
185.	Tyler Bertuzzi, Chi		80	21	25	46
186.	Kyle Palmieri, NYI		70	21	25	46
187.	Conor Garland, Van		81	18	28	46
188.	Brady Skjei, Nsh	D	80	15	31	46
189.	Justin Faulk, StL	D	75	8	38	46
190.	Frank Vatrano, Ana		81	25	20	45
191.	Lawson Crouse, Uth		76	22	23	45
192.	Nino Niederreiter, Wpg		78	22	23	45
193.	Leo Carlsson, Ana		74	20	25	45
194.	Connor Zary, Cgy		78	20	25	45
195.	Cole Sillinger, Clb		78	20	25	45
196.	Filip Chytil, NYR		73	20	25	45
197.	Mark Stone, Veg		65	20	25	45
198.	Anton Lundell, Fla		78	18	27	45
199.	Tommy Novak, Nsh		70	15	30	45

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
200.	Kris Letang, Pit	D	75	10	35	45
201.	Alex Pietrangelo, Veg	D	75	10	35	45
202.	Yegor Chinakhov, Clb		75	22	22	44
203.	Tyson Foerster, Phi		78	22	22	44
204.	Jordan Eberle, Sea		80	21	23	44
205.	Joel Farabee, Phi		82	20	24	44
206.	J.T. Compher, Det		78	17	27	44
207.	Jack Roslovic, Car		75	14	30	44
208.	Olen Zellweger, Ana	D	78	12	32	44
209.	Thomas Chabot, Ott	D	70	10	34	44
210.	Brock Faber, Min	D	80	7	37	44
211.	Rickard Rakell, Pit		72	20	23	43
212.	Zach Benson, Buf		78	18	25	43
213.	Mason Marchment, Dal		78	18	25	43
214.	Luke Hughes, NJ	D	80	10	33	43
215.	Jamie Drysdale, Phi	D	72	7	36	43
216.	Anders Lee, NYI		80	22	20	42
217.	Kent Johnson, Clb		80	20	22	42
218.	Shane Pinto, Ott		82	20	22	42
219.	Daniel Sprong, Van		73	17	25	42
220.	Alex Kerfoot, Uth		82	12	30	42
221.	Owen Power, Buf	D	78	8	34	42
222.	Jake Neighbours, StL		78	25	16	41
223.	Brandon Saad, StL		79	23	18	41
224.	Trent Frederic, Bos		81	20	21	41
225.	Ryan Hartman, Min		72	20	21	41
226.	Tom Wilson, Wsh		75	20	21	41

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

SKATERS

PROJECTED TOTALS

	PLAYER	D	GP	G	A	PTS
227.	Anthony Cirelli, TB		75	18	23	41
228.	Nick Robertson, Tor		77	18	23	41
229.	Adam Henrique, Edm		72	17	24	41
230.	Jonathan Drouin, Col		72	14	27	41
231.	Ryan Strome, Ana		80	13	28	41
232.	Travis Sanheim, Phi	D	81	10	31	41
233.	Brandon Montour, Sea	D	78	10	31	41
234.	Blake Coleman, Cgy		80	20	20	40
235.	Jaden Schwartz, Sea		70	20	20	40
236.	Eeli Tolvanen, Sea		78	18	22	40
237.	Fabian Zetterlund, SJ		80	18	22	40
238.	Calle Jarnkrok, Tor		75	18	22	40
239.	Jesperi Kotkaniemi, Car		80	15	25	40
240.	Scott Laughton, Phi		80	15	25	40
241.	Andre Burakovsky, Sea		70	15	25	40
242.	Andrew Mangiapane, Wsh		82	15	25	40
243.	MacKenzie Weegar, Cgy	D	81	10	30	40
244.	Rasmus Andersson, Cgy	D	80	8	32	40
245.	Evander Kane, Edm		72	18	21	39
246.	Sam Bennett, Fla		72	18	21	39
247.	Anthony Duclair, NYI		70	18	21	39
248.	Maxim Tsyplakov, NYI		80	18	21	39
249.	Erik Haula, NJ		78	17	22	39
250.	Reilly Smith, NYR		75	15	24	39
251.	Hendrix Lapierre, Wsh		78	15	24	39
252.	Gustav Forsling, Fla	D	80	11	28	39
253.	Mattias Ekholm, Edm	D	78	10	29	39
254.	Ross Colton, Col		80	18	20	38
255.	Nick Paul, TB		80	18	20	38
256.	Alexander Holtz, Veg		80	18	20	38
257.	Cody Glass, Nsh		71	16	22	38
258.	Philipp Kurashev, Chi		78	15	23	38
259.	Mikael Backlund, Cgy		82	14	24	38
260.	Evan Rodrigues, Fla		78	14	24	38
261.	Yanni Gourde, Sea		80	14	24	38
262.	Matthew Poitras, Bos		74	13	25	38
263.	Aaron Ekblad, Fla	D	72	11	27	38
264.	Jaccob Slavin, Car	D	80	7	31	38
265.	Kirill Marchenko, Clb		79	21	16	37
266.	Ridly Greig, Ott		79	18	19	37
267.	Andreas Athanasiou, Chi		70	15	22	37
268.	Ondrej Palat, NJ		77	15	22	37
269.	Ryan Poehling, Phi		78	15	22	37
270.	Kevin Hayes, Pit		75	15	22	37
271.	Pius Suter, Van		72	15	22	37
272.	Lukas Reichel, Chi		76	13	24	37
273.	Jakob Chychrun, Wsh	D	75	12	25	37
274.	Pavel Mintyukov, Ana	D	78	6	31	37
275.	Bobby McMann, Tor		75	23	13	36
276.	Nils Hoglander, Van		78	21	15	36
277.	Evgenii Dadonov, Dal		70	15	21	36
278.	Eetu Luostarinen, Fla		82	15	21	36
279.	Conor Sheary, TB		80	15	21	36
280.	Nick Bjugstad, Uth		72	15	21	36
281.	Jean-Gabriel Pageau, NYI		80	13	23	36
282.	Damon Severson, Clb	D	80	11	25	36
283.	Brandt Clarke, LA	D	78	11	25	36
284.	Seth Jones, Chi	D	75	10	26	36
285.	Noah Hanifin, Veg	D	80	8	28	36
286.	Anthony Mantha, Cgy		70	19	16	35
287.	Drew O'Connor, Pit		78	18	17	35
288.	Morgan Geekie, Bos		75	15	20	35
289.	Jordan Martinook, Car		82	15	20	35
290.	Shane Wright, Sea		75	14	21	35
291.	Bowen Byram, Buf	D	75	12	23	35
292.	Warren Foegele, LA		79	17	17	34
293.	Alexandre Texier, StL		77	14	20	34
294.	Alex Iafallo, Wpg		75	13	21	34
295.	Adam Lowry, Wpg		18	13	21	34
296.	Vladislav Namestnikov, Wpg		77	13	21	34
297.	Jack Drury, Car		75	12	22	34
298.	Matt Coronato, Cgy		70	12	22	34
299.	Andrew Copp, Det		78	12	22	34
300.	Darnell Nurse, Edm	D	81	11	23	34

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

GOALIES

PROJECTED TOTALS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	PLAYER	W	L	OT	SO	SP	GAA
1.	Thatcher Demko, Van	39	16	4	4	.915	2.51
2.	Jake Oettinger, Dal	38	14	8	4	.910	2.48
3.	Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB	38	18	5	4	.912	2.49
4.	Stuart Skinner, Edm	37	18	6	3	.910	2.35
5.	Igor Shesterkin, NYR	37	15	4	6	.915	2.51
6.	Connor Hellebuyck, Wpg	36	22	4	4	.920	2.44
7.	Alexandar Georgiev, Col	34	21	7	3	.903	2.88
8.	Juuse Saros, Nsh	34	22	6	5	.910	2.48
9.	Sergei Bobrovsky, Fla	33	17	5	5	.912	2.41
10.	Joseph Woll, Tor	33	15	5	3	.907	2.62
11.	Adin Hill, Veg	32	17	6	3	.911	2.57
12.	Jeremy Swayman, Bos	30	16	7	4	.915	2.46
13.	Ilya Sorokin, NYI	30	20	6	5	.917	2.33
14.	Darcy Kuemper, LA	29	22	6	2	.910	2.52
15.	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, Buf	28	21	5	4	.909	2.48
16.	Frederik Andersen, Car	27	15	4	3	.912	2.31
17.	Linus Ullmark, Ott	27	22	5	2	.907	2.86
18.	Ivan Fedotov, Phi	27	19	4	4	.912	2.45
19.	Jordan Binnington, StL	27	19	5	3	.910	2.60
20.	Connor Ingram, Uth	26	20	5	4	.907	2.67
21.	Jacob Markstrom, NJ	25	21	4	2	.906	2.84
22.	Tristan Jarry, Pit	25	18	5	2	.905	2.88
23.	Petr Mrazek, Chi	24	23	5	2	.906	3.15
24.	Dustin Wolf, Cgy	23	22	5	1	.900	3.23
25.	Logan Thompson, Wsh	23	16	3	0	.907	2.85
26.	Filip Gustavsson, Min	22	18	4	2	.906	2.58
27.	Joey Daccord, Sea	22	16	5	2	.912	2.45
28.	Pyotr Kochetkov, Car	21	11	4	3	.909	2.44
29.	Sam Montembeault, Mtl	21	15	5	2	.905	2.89
30.	Alex Lyon, Det	20	13	3	4	.906	2.98
31.	Cayden Primeau, Mtl	20	17	4	1	.907	2.72
32.	Yaroslav Askarov, Nsh	20	10	3	2	0.911	2.50
33.	Alex Nedeljkovic, Pit	20	12	4	2	.905	2.81
34.	Charlie Lindgren, Wsh	20	16	4	0	.905	3.02
35.	Philipp Grubauer, Sea	19	16	4	1	.898	3.05
36.	Joel Hofer, StL	18	10	3	2	.912	2.51
37.	Anthony Stolarz, Tor	18	9	2	1	.912	2.45
38.	John Gibson, Ana	17	20	4	2	.901	3.25
39.	Lukas Dostal, Ana	17	19	5	2	.903	3.14
40.	Jake Allen, NJ	17	13	2	1	.902	2.93
41.	Samuel Ersson, Phi	17	13	2	1	.901	2.87
42.	Spencer Knight, Fla	16	10	3	3	.907	2.53
43.	Mackenzie Blackwood, SJ	16	26	5	0	.901	3.22
44.	Ilya Samsonov, Veg	16	8	3	1	.907	2.68
45.	Joonas Korpisalo, Bos	15	11	3	1	.910	2.67
46.	Dan Vladar, Cgy	15	15	2	1	.903	2.95
47.	Elvis Merzlikins, Clb	15	20	5	0	.900	3.28
48.	Ville Husso, Det	15	13	4	2	.905	3.06
49.	Semyon Varlamov, NYI	15	9	2	3	.913	2.57
50.	Jonathan Quick, NYR	15	8	0	0	.909	2.79
51.	Karel Vejmelka, Uth	15	13	3	2	.901	3.15
52.	Laurent Brossoit, Chi	14	13	3	1	.906	3.02
53.	Casey DeSmith, Dal	14	6	2	2	.908	2.56
54.	David Rittich, LA	14	8	3	2	.911	2.61
55.	Arturs Silovs, Van	14	7	2	1	.905	2.78
56.	Calvin Pickard, Edm	13	6	2	1	.907	2.52
57.	Marc-Andre Fleury, Min	13	13	3	2	.901	2.78
58.	Justus Annunen, Col	12	5	3	1	.910	2.71
59.	Scott Wedgewood, Nsh	12	6	2	1	.911	2.51
60.	Vitek Vanecek, SJ	12	20	3	0	.904	3.12
61.	Jonas Johansson, TB	12	7	2	1	.895	3.07
62.	Anton Forsberg, Ott	11	15	2	1	.902	3.05
63.	Kaapo Kahkonen, Wpg	11	7	2	1	.905	2.91
64.	Devon Levi, Buf	10	6	2	1	.904	2.61
65.	Jet Greaves, Clb	8	6	1	1	.910	2.89
66.	Cam Talbot, Det	8	4	2	1	.909	2.79
67.	Jesper Wallstedt, Min	6	2	1	0	.907	2.44
68.	Kevin Lankinen, UFA	5	3	2	1	.907	275
69.	James Reimer, Buf	5	3	2	0	.905	2.59
70.	Daniil Tarasov, Clb	5	10	2	0	.905	3.01

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2023-24 FINAL STANDINGS

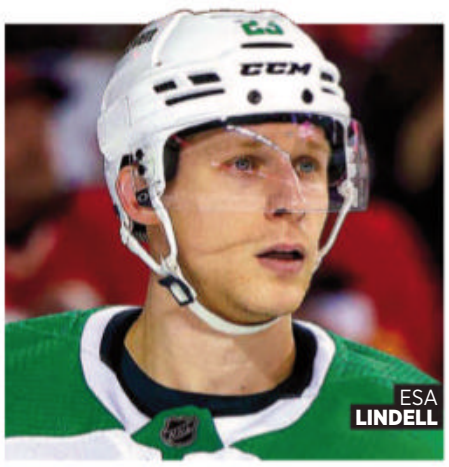
Total NHL Games: 1,312 Total NHL Goals: 8,168 NHL Avg. Goals/Game: 6.23

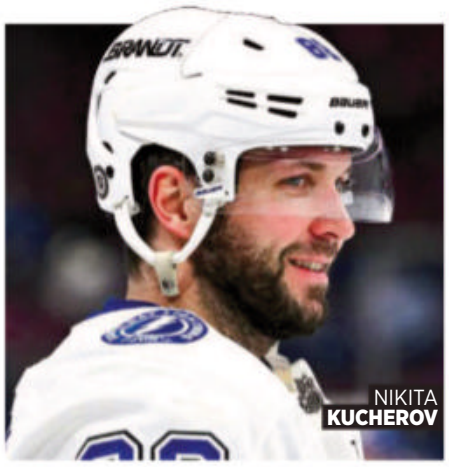
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	OVERALL										HOME								ROAD							
	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	GF	GA	P	PCT.	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P
1. NY Rangers	82	55	23	1	3	51	282	229	114	.695	41	30	11	0	0	142	110	60	41	25	12	1	3	140	119	54
2. Carolina	82	52	23	2	5	50	279	216	111	.677	41	27	10	2	2	136	101	58	41	25	13	0	3	143	115	53
3. Florida	82	52	24	4	2	49	268	200	110	.671	41	26	13	2	0	129	105	54	41	26	11	2	2	139	95	56
4. Boston	82	47	20	12	3	43	267	224	109	.665	41	24	11	5	1	138	111	54	41	23	9	7	2	129	113	55
5. Toronto	82	46	26	8	2	41	303	263	102	.622	41	22	15	3	1	156	141	48	41	24	11	5	1	147	122	54
6. Tampa Bay	82	45	29	7	1	42	291	268	98	.598	41	25	11	4	1	157	125	55	41	20	18	3	0	134	143	43
7. NY Islanders	82	39	27	11	5	38	246	263	94	.573	41	21	10	7	3	125	127	52	41	18	17	4	2	121	136	42
8. Washington	82	40	31	6	5	36	220	257	91	.555	41	22	12	3	4	118	122	51	41	18	19	3	1	102	135	40
9. Detroit	82	41	32	8	1	38	278	274	91	.555	41	23	13	5	0	148	124	51	41	18	19	3	1	130	150	40
10. Pittsburgh	82	38	32	9	3	36	255	251	88	.537	41	23	14	2	2	132	121	50	41	15	18	7	1	123	130	38
11. Philadelphia	82	38	33	8	3	34	235	261	87	.530	41	20	17	2	2	112	125	44	41	18	16	6	1	123	136	43
12. Buffalo	82	39	37	5	1	37	246	244	84	.512	41	21	19	0	1	125	115	43	41	18	18	5	0	121	129	41
13. New Jersey	82	38	39	3	2	38	264	283	81	.494	41	17	21	1	2	129	151	37	41	21	18	2	0	135	132	44
14. Ottawa	82	37	41	4	0	32	255	281	78	.476	41	21	18	2	0	136	145	44	41	16	23	2	0	119	136	34
15. Montreal	82	30	36	8	8	26	236	289	76	.463	41	16	20	3	2	119	139	37	41	14	16	5	6	117	150	39
16. Columbus	82	27	43	10	2	24	237	300	66	.402	41	17	19	4	1	125	137	39	41	10	24	6	1	112	163	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	OVERALL										HOME								ROAD							
	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	GF	GA	P	PCT.	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P
1. Dallas	82	52	21	7	2	48	298	234	113	.689	41	26	11	4	0	155	124	56	41	26	10	3	2	143	110	57
2. Winnipeg	82	52	24	5	1	52	259	199	110	.671	41	27	11	3	0	137	98	57	41	25	13	2	1	122	101	53
3. Vancouver	82	50	23	7	2	50	279	223	109	.665	41	27	9	5	0	144	99	59	41	23	14	2	2	135	124	50
4. Colorado	82	50	25	5	2	48	304	254	107	.652	41	31	9	0	1	173	112	63	41	19	16	5	1	131	142	44
5. Edmonton	82	49	27	5	1	47	294	237	104	.634	41	28	9	4	0	170	106	60	41	21	18	1	1	124	131	44
6. Nashville	82	47	30	5	0	44	269	248	99	.604	41	23	16	2	0	135	126	48	41	24	14	3	0	134	122	51
7. Los Angeles	82	44	27	6	5	42	256	215	99	.604	41	22	12	2	5	133	104	51	41	22	15	4	0	123	111	48
8. Vegas	82	45	29	6	2	41	267	245	98	.598	41	27	12	2	0	138	104	56	41	18	17	4	2	129	141	42
9. St. Louis	82	43	33	4	2	38	239	250	92	.561	41	25	14	2	0	131	117	52	41	18	19	2	2	108	133	40
10. Minnesota	82	39	34	6	3	36	251	263	87	.530	41	20	16	5	0	127	131	45	41	19	18	1	3	124	132	42
11. Calgary	82	38	39	1	4	38	253	271	81	.494	41	21	19	0	1	125	130	43	41	17	20	1	3	128	141	38
12. Seattle	82	34	35	9	4	31	217	236	81	.494	41	17	18	5	1	113	117	40	41	17	17	4	3	104	119	41
13. Arizona	82	36	41	5	0	34	256	274	77	.470	41	22	19	0	0	136	132	44	41	14	22	5	0	120	142	33
14. Anaheim	82	27	50	3	2	26	204	295	59	.360	41	12	26	2	1	100	140	27	41	15	24	1	1	104	155	32
15. Chicago	82	23	53	5	1	22	179	290	52	.317	41	16	21	3	1	100	128	36	41	7	32	2	0	79	162	16
16. San Jose	82	19	54	4	5	18	181	331	47	.287	41	11	25	3	2	93	164	27	41	8	29	1	3	88	167	20





TEAM PENALTIES

	PIM	BMI	AVG.
1. Dallas	554	8	6.8
2. NY Islanders	586	10	7.1
3. St. Louis	608	9	7.4
4. Vegas	605	8	7.4
5. Pittsburgh	603	8	7.4
6. Washington	628	9	7.7
7. Seattle	653	3	8.0
8. Columbus	670	7	8.2
9. Winnipeg	669	9	8.2
10. Carolina	693	11	8.5
11. Detroit	716	7	8.7
12. Chicago	715	7	8.7
13. Los Angeles	715	8	8.7
14. Colorado	731	13	8.9
15. New Jersey	747	10	9.1
16. NY Rangers	773	12	9.4
17. Calgary	767	9	9.4
18. Boston	780	11	9.5
19. Edmonton	780	9	9.5
20. San Jose	780	6	9.5
21. Vancouver	784	14	9.6
22. Nashville	796	10	9.7
23. Buffalo	805	7	9.8
24. Toronto	815	11	9.9
25. Philadelphia	830	9	10.1
26. Montreal	835	10	10.2
27. Ottawa	855	7	10.4
28. Tampa Bay	901	9	11.0
29. Minnesota	938	6	11.4
30. Arizona	944	15	11.5
31. Anaheim	1108	16	13.5
32. Florida	1116	5	13.6

BMI: Bench penalty minutes
NHL PIM: 24,500

PENALTY KILL

	SH	PPGA	PCT.
1. Carolina	258	35	86.4
2. Los Angeles	253	39	84.6
3. NY Rangers	232	36	84.5
4. Philadelphia	241	40	83.4
5. Tampa Bay	234	39	83.3
6. Florida	291	51	82.5
7. Boston	268	47	82.5
8. Dallas	239	43	82
9. Calgary	245	47	80.8
10. New Jersey	243	47	80.7
11. Pittsburgh	243	47	80.7
12. Colorado	264	53	79.9
13. Buffalo	243	49	79.8
14. Detroit	240	49	79.6
15. Edmonton	258	53	79.5
16. Vegas	213	44	79.3
17. Vancouver	254	53	79.1
18. St. Louis	215	45	79.1
19. Washington	233	49	79
20. Seattle	222	47	78.8
21. Winnipeg	223	51	77.1
22. Nashville	247	57	76.9
23. Toronto	238	55	76.9
24. Montreal	276	65	76.5
25. Arizona	266	63	76.3
26. Columbus	236	56	76.3
27. Chicago	231	56	75.8
28. San Jose	252	62	75.4
29. Ottawa	245	61	75.1
30. Minnesota	263	67	74.5
31. Anaheim	330	91	72.4
32. NY Islanders	221	63	71.5

SH: Shorthanded situations
PPGA: Power-play goals allowed
NHL Total SH: 7,917 **NHL PP Kills:** 6,257

POWER PLAY

	ADV	PPG	PCT.
1. Tampa Bay	248	71	28.6
2. Carolina	249	67	26.9
3. NY Rangers	246	65	26.4
4. Edmonton	243	64	26.3
5. Colorado	278	68	24.5
6. Dallas	240	58	24.2
7. Toronto	238	57	24
8. Florida	268	63	23.5
9. Detroit	273	63	23.1
10. Minnesota	273	62	22.7
11. Vancouver	256	58	22.7
12. Los Angeles	248	56	22.6
13. New Jersey	245	55	22.5
14. Boston	243	54	22.2
15. Arizona	241	53	22
16. Nashville	269	58	21.6
17. Seattle	242	50	20.7
18. Washington	228	47	20.6
19. NY Islanders	231	47	20.4
20. Vegas	252	51	20.2
21. San Jose	208	42	20.2
22. Winnipeg	240	45	18.8
23. Ottawa	283	51	18
24. St. Louis	250	45	18
25. Anaheim	235	42	17.9
26. Calgary	252	45	17.9
27. Montreal	252	44	17.5
28. Chicago	235	39	16.6
29. Buffalo	223	37	16.6
30. Pittsburgh	262	40	15.3
31. Columbus	212	32	15.1
32. Philadelphia	254	31	12.2

Adv.: Advantages
PPG: Power-play goals
NHL PP: 7,917 **NHL PP goals:** 1,660

OVERALL STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	OT	SO	ROW	P
1. NY Rangers	82	55	23	1	3	51	114
2. Dallas	82	52	21	7	2	48	113
3. Carolina	82	52	23	2	5	50	111
4. Winnipeg	82	52	24	5	1	52	110
5. Florida	82	52	24	4	2	49	110
6. Vancouver	82	50	23	7	2	50	109
7. Boston	82	47	20	12	3	43	109
8. Colorado	82	50	25	5	2	48	107
9. Edmonton	82	49	27	5	1	47	104
10. Toronto	82	46	26	8	2	41	102
11. Nashville	82	47	30	5	0	44	99
12. Los Angeles	82	44	27	6	5	42	99
13. Tampa Bay	82	45	29	7	1	42	98
14. Vegas	82	45	29	6	2	41	98
15. NY Islanders	82	39	27	11	5	38	94
16. St. Louis	82	43	33	4	2	38	92
17. Washington	82	40	31	6	5	36	91
18. Detroit	82	41	32	8	1	38	91
19. Pittsburgh	82	38	32	9	3	36	88
20. Minnesota	82	39	34	6	3	36	87
21. Philadelphia	82	38	33	8	3	34	87
22. Buffalo	82	39	37	5	1	37	84
23. New Jersey	82	38	39	3	2	38	81
24. Calgary	82	38	39	1	4	38	81
25. Seattle	82	34	35	9	4	31	81
26. Ottawa	82	37	41	4	0	32	78
27. Arizona	82	36	41	5	0	34	77
28. Montreal	82	30	36	8	8	26	76
29. Columbus	82	27	43	10	2	24	66
30. Anaheim	82	27	50	3	2	26	59
31. Chicago	82	23	53	5	1	22	52
32. San Jose	82	19	54	4	5	18	47

DIVISION STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	SO	ROW	P
1. Florida	82	52	24	4	2	49	110
2. Boston	82	47	20	12	3	43	109
3. Toronto	82	46	26	8	2	41	102
4. Tampa Bay	82	45	29	7	1	42	98
5. Detroit	82	41	32	8	1	38	91
6. Buffalo	82	39	37	5	1	37	84
7. Ottawa	82	37	41	4	0	32	78
8. Montreal	82	30	36	8	8	26	76

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	SO	ROW	P
1. NY Rangers	82	55	23	1	3	51	114
2. Carolina	82	52	23	2	5	50	111
3. NY Islanders	82	39	27	11	5	38	94
4. Washington	82	40	31	6	5	36	91
5. Pittsburgh	82	38	32	9	3	36	88
6. Philadelphia	82	38	33	8	3	34	87
7. New Jersey	82	38	39	3	2	38	81
8. Columbus	82	27	43	10	2	24	66

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	SO	ROW	P
1. Dallas	82	52	21	7	2	48	113
2. Winnipeg	82	52	24	5	1	52	110
3. Colorado	82	50	25	5	2	48	107
4. Nashville	82	47	30	5	0	44	99
5. St. Louis	82	43	33	4	2	38	92
6. Minnesota	82	39	34	6	3	36	87
7. Arizona	82	36	41	5	0	34	77
8. Chicago	82	23	53	5	1	22	52

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	SO	ROW	P
1. Vancouver	82	50	23	7	2	50	109
2. Edmonton	82	49	27	5	1	47	104
3. Los Angeles	82	44	27	6	5	42	99
4. Vegas	82	45	29	6	2	41	98
5. Calgary	82	38	39	1	4	38	81
6. Seattle	82	34	35	9	4	31	81
7. Anaheim	82	27	50	3	2	26	59
8. San Jose	82	19	54	4	5	18	47

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2022-23	2023-24
1. Montreal	21,078	21,099
2. Edmonton	17,838	19,173
3. Tampa Bay	19,092	19,092
4. Detroit	18,819	18,980
5. Chicago	17,167	18,836
6. Vancouver	18,702	18,826
7. Carolina	19,526	18,798
8. Toronto	18,753	18,789
9. Florida	16,682	18,632
10. Dallas	18,371	18,532
11. Minnesota	18,454	18,529
12. Philadelphia	17,635	18,438
13. Vegas	18,024	18,139
14. Colorado	17,991	18,103
15. NY Islanders	16,912	18,099
16. St. Louis	18,075	18,084
17. NY Rangers	17,859	17,983
18. Los Angeles	17,067	17,945
19. Pittsburgh	17,816	17,909
20. Seattle	17,151	17,887
21. Boston	18,372	17,850
22. Washington	18,573	17,841
23. New Jersey	15,207	17,598
24. Ottawa	16,757	17,580
25. Calgary	17,956	17,501
26. Nashville	17,344	17,306
27. Columbus	16,860	17,016
28. Buffalo	15,567	15,981
29. Anaheim	14,953	15,687
30. San Jose	13,988	13,559
31. Winnipeg	14,045	13,490
32. Arizona	4,600	4,600

LINDELL: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS; SLAVIN: ROBERT EDWARDS-USA TODAY SPORTS; KUCHEROV: DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NATHAN MACKINNON

MACKINNON: PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS; HUGHES: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS

AWARD WINNERS & ALL-STARS

NHL AWARDS

Hart Trophy (Most Valuable Player)
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado

Ted Lindsay Award (MVP voted by players)
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado

Art Ross Trophy (Top scorer)
Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay

Maurice Richard Trophy (Top goal-scorer)
Auston Matthews, Toronto

Calder Trophy (Rookie of the year)
Connor Bedard, Chicago

Norris Trophy (Outstanding defenseman)
Quinn Hughes, Vancouver

Vezina Trophy (Outstanding goaltender)
Connor Hellebuyck, Winnipeg

Lady Byng Trophy (Most sportsmanlike)
Jaccob Slavin, Carolina

Selke Trophy (Best defensive forward)
Aleksander Barkov, Florida

Jack Adams Award (Coach of the year)
Rick Tocchet, Vancouver

Jennings Trophy (Lowest GAA)
Connor Hellebuyck, Winnipeg

Conn Smythe Trophy (Playoff MVP)
Connor McDavid, Edmonton

Masterton Trophy (Perseverance)
Connor Ingram, Arizona

King Clancy Trophy (Humanitarian)
Anders Lee, NY Islanders

FIRST-TEAM ALL-STARS

C Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado
LW Artemi Panarin, NY Rangers
RW Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay
D Quinn Hughes, Vancouver
D Roman Josi, Nashville
G Connor Hellebuyck, Winnipeg

SECOND-TEAM ALL-STARS

C Filip Forsberg, Nashville
LW Connor McDavid, Edmonton
RW David Pastrnak, Boston
D Adam Fox, NY Rangers
D Cale Makar, Colorado
G Thatcher Demko, Vancouver

QUINN HUGHES

THE HOCKEY NEWS AWARDS

Most Valuable Player
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado

Best Player
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado

Best Defenseman
Quinn Hughes, Vancouver

Best Goaltender
Connor Hellebuyck, Winnipeg

Best Rookie
Connor Bedard, Chicago

Best Defensive Defenseman
Jaccob Slavin, Carolina

Comeback Player
Jonathan Drouin, Colorado

Breakout Player
Lucas Raymond, Detroit

Toughest Player
Brady Tkachuk, Ottawa

Top Penalty-Killer
Jordan Staal, Carolina

Best Coach
Rick Tocchet, Vancouver

Best General Manager
Jim Nill, Dallas

AWARD & ALL-STAR VOTING

NHL AWARDS VOTING

HART TROPHY 1. Nathan MacKinnon, COL 1740 (137-47-8-0-1) 2. Nikita Kucherov, TB 1269 (50-77-30-23-11) 3. Connor McDavid, EDM 845 (1-28-86-67-8) 4. Auston Matthews, TOR 756 (2-33-53-73-21) 5. Artemi Panarin, NYR 175 (3-1-7-15-58) 6. Connor Hellebuyck, WPG 104 (1-4-3-7-30) 7. Quinn Hughes, VAN 62 (0-1-4-3-26) 8. David Pastrnak, BOS 41 (0-2-0-4-15) 9. Sidney Crosby, PIT 38 (0-1-3-1-13) 10. Roman Josi, NSH 8 (0-0-0-0-8)

NORRIS TROPHY 1. Quinn Hughes, VAN 1864 (172-17-5-0-0) 2. Roman Josi, NSH 1207 (12-108-61-8-2) 3. Cale Makar, COL 893 (9-61-59-21-18) 4. Adam Fox, NYR 229 (1-1-14-38-28) 5. Evan Bouchard, EDM 212 (0-1-19-29-23) 6. Victor Hedman, TB 201 (0-4-6-42-17) 7. Josh Morrissey, WPG 166 (0-0-19-16-23) 8. Noah Dobson, NYI 95 (0-0-2-18-31) 9. Gustav Forsling, FLA 85 (0-1-6-10-18) 10. Miro Heiskanen, DAL 43 (0-1-3-3-12)

VEZINA TROPHY 1. Connor Hellebuyck, WPG 158 (31-1-0) 2. Thatcher Demko, VAN 70 (0-20-10) 3. Sergei Bobrovsky, FLA 40 (1-8-11) 4. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 7 (0-1-4) 5. Juuse Saros, NSH 5 (0-1-2) 6. Linus Ullmark, BOS 3 (0-1-0) 7. Jeremy Swayman, BOS 3 (0-0-3) T-8. Charlie Lindgren, WSH 1 (0-0-1) T-8. Ilya Sorokin, NYI 1 (0-0-1)

JACK ADAMS AWARD 1. Rick Tocchet, VAN 483 (82-23-4) 2. Andrew Brunette, NSH 145 (8-28-21) 3. Rick Bowness, WPG 75 (5-11-17) 4. Peter Laviolette, NYR 66 (5-10-11) 5. Kris Knoblauch, EDM 64 (3-12-13) 6. Paul Maurice, FLA 42 (1-9-10) 7. Spencer Carbery, WSH 34 (4-1-11) 8. Rod Brind'Amour, CAR 31 (4-3-2) 9. Jim Montgomery, BOS 29 (0-7-8) 10. Peter DeBoer, DAL 26 (2-2-10)

FRANK SELKE TROPHY 1. Aleksander Barkov, FLA 1817 (165-19-5-3-0) 2. Jordan Staal, CAR 539 (4-38-28-22-27) 3. Auston Matthews, TOR 514 (2-36-26-31-19) 4. Sam Reinhart, FLA 440 (12-18-27-14-17) 5. Anze Kopitar, LA 440 (0-24-36-24-20) 6. Roope Hintz, DAL 315 (2-21-18-15-13) 7. Adam Lowry, WPG 308 (0-14-19-30-25) 8. Seth Jarvis, CAR 152 (0-10-7-13-8) 9. Sidney Crosby, PIT 85 (2-1-3-12-7) 10. Joel Eriksson Ek, MIN 65 (0-3-5-5-4)

LADY BYNG TROPHY 1. Jaccob Slavin, CAR 1174 (81-33-18-13-4) 2. Elias Pettersson, VAN 508 (13-31-21-14-14) 3. Auston Matthews, TOR 506 (24-18-20-9-13) 4. Brayden Point, TB 395 (9-19-21-17-16) 5. Kyle Connor, WPG 383 (12-19-13-17-14) 6. Gustav Nyquist, NSH 366 (12-16-15-14-17) 7. Cale Makar, COL 337 (18-10-10-9-10) 8. Jesper Bratt, NJ 116 (0-2-11-12-11) 9. Marc-Andre Fleury, MIN 96 (4-6-2-0-4) 10. Esa Lindell, DAL 88 (1-4-5-8-1)

NHL ALL-STAR VOTING

GOALTENDER 1. Connor Hellebuyck, WPG 925 (183-3-1) 2. Thatcher Demko, VAN 410 (0-123-41) 3. Sergei Bobrovsky, FLA 220 (2-47-69) 4. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 35 (2-5-10) 5. Jordan Binnington, STL 21 (0-0-21) 6. Jeremy Swayman, BOS 18 (0-0-18) 7. Juuse Saros, NSH 16 (0-4-4) 8. Jacob Markstrom, CGY 13 (0-2-7) 9. Jake Oettinger, DAL 6 (0-2-0) 10. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB 6 (0-1-3)

DEFENSE 1. Quinn Hughes, VAN 931 (185-2-0) 2. Roman Josi, NSH 769 (110-72-3) 3. Cale Makar, COL 619 (76-70-29) 4. Adam Fox, NYR 228 (2-51-65) 5. Evan Bouchard, EDM 217 (0-53-58) 6. Victor Hedman, TB 189 (1-46-46) 7. Josh Morrissey, WPG 142 (0-32-46) 8. Noah Dobson, NYI 107 (0-20-47) 9. Gustav Forsling, FLA 78 (0-18-24) 10. Miro Heiskanen, DAL 38 (0-6-20)

CENTER 1. Nathan MacKinnon, COL 873 (160-23-4) 2. Connor McDavid, EDM 471 (17-108-62) 3. Auston Matthews, TOR 329 (9-55-119) 4. Sidney Crosby, PIT 10 (1-1-2)

LEFT WING 1. Artemi Panarin, NYR 931 (185-2-0) 2. Filip Forsberg, NSH 358 (0-94-76) 3. Kirill Kaprizov, MIN 323 (1-79-81) 4. Matthew Tkachuk, FLA 50 (1-8-21) 5. Zach Hyman, EDM 11 (0-2-5) 6. Brady Tkachuk, OTT 4 (0-1-1) 7. J.T. Miller, VAN 3 (0-1-0) 8. Jason Robertson, DAL 2 (0-0-2) 9. Brad Marchand, BOS 1 (0-0-1)

RIGHT WING 1. Nikita Kucherov, TB 935 (187-0-0) 2. David Pastrnak, BOS 436 (0-130-46) 3. Sam Reinhart, FLA 206 (0-49-59) 4. Mikko Rantanen, COL 74 (0-5-59) 5. Zach Hyman, EDM 24 (0-3-15) 6. William Nylander, TOR 5 (0-0-5) 7. Mitch Marner, TOR 2 (0-0-2) 8. Brock Boeser, VAN 1 (0-0-1)

POINTS

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	P
1.	Nikita Kucherov	TB	81	44	100	144
2.	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	82	51	89	140
3.	Connor McDavid	EDM	76	32	100	132
4.	Artemi Panarin	NYR	82	49	71	120
5.	David Pastrnak	BOS	82	47	63	110
6.	Auston Matthews	TOR	81	69	38	107
7.	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	81	41	65	106
8.	Mikko Rantanen	COL	80	42	62	104
9.	J.T. Miller	VAN	81	37	66	103
10.	William Nylander	TOR	82	40	58	98
11.	Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	75	46	50	96
12.	Sam Reinhart	FLA	82	57	37	94
13.	Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	48	46	94
14.	Sidney Crosby	PIT	82	42	52	94
15.	Quinn Hughes	VAN	82	17	75	92
16.	Brayden Point	TB	81	46	44	90
17.	Cale Makar	COL	77	21	69	90
18.	Sebastian Aho	CAR	78	36	53	89
19.	Elias Pettersson	VAN	82	34	55	89
20.	Matthew Tkachuk	FLA	80	26	62	88
21.	Robert Thomas	STL	82	26	60	86
22.	Mitch Marner	TOR	69	26	59	85
23.	Roman Josi	NSH	82	23	62	85
24.	Jesper Bratt	NJ	82	27	56	83
25.	Evan Bouchard	EDM	81	18	64	82
26.	Steven Stamkos	TB	79	40	41	81
27.	Jason Robertson	DAL	82	29	51	80
28.	Aleksander Barkov	FLA	73	23	57	80
29.	Mat Barzal	NYI	80	23	57	80
30.	Zach Hyman	EDM	80	54	23	77
31.	Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	33	44	77
32.	Jake Guentzel	PIT,CAR	67	30	47	77
33.	Vincent Trocheck	NYR	82	25	52	77
34.	Clayton Keller	ARI	78	33	43	76
35.	Victor Hedman	TB	78	13	63	76
36.	Chris Kreider	NYR	82	39	36	75
37.	Nazem Kadri	CGY	82	29	46	75
38.	Adrian Kempe	LA	77	28	47	75
39.	Brandon Hagel	TB	82	26	49	75
40.	Gustav Nyquist	NSH	81	23	52	75
41.	Brady Tkachuk	OTT	81	37	37	74
42.	Jack Hughes	NJ	62	27	47	74
43.	Brock Boeser	VAN	81	40	33	73
44.	Kevin Fiala	LA	82	29	44	73
45.	Adam Fox	NYR	72	17	56	73
46.	Carter Verhaeghe	FLA	76	34	38	72
47.	Lucas Raymond	DET	82	31	41	72
48.	Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	26	46	72
49.	Mark Scheifele	WPG	74	25	47	72
50.	Anze Kopitar	LA	81	26	44	70
51.	Tim Stutzle	OTT	75	18	52	70
52.	Noah Dobson	NYI	79	10	60	70
53.	Jonathan Marchessault	VEG	82	42	27	69
54.	Brock Nelson	NYI	82	34	35	69
55.	Dylan Larkin	DET	68	33	36	69
56.	Matt Boldy	MIN	75	29	40	69
57.	Ryan O'Reilly	NSH	82	26	43	69
58.	Josh Morrissey	WPG	81	10	59	69
59.	Travis Konecny	PHI	76	33	35	68
60.	Bo Horvat	NYI	81	33	35	68
61.	Jack Eichel	VEG	63	31	37	68
62.	Seth Jarvis	CAR	81	33	34	67
63.	Jordan Kyrou	STL	82	31	36	67
64.	Brad Marchand	BOS	82	29	38	67
65.	Nico Hischier	NJ	71	27	40	67
66.	Joe Pavelski	DAL	82	27	40	67
67.	Alex DeBrincat	DET	82	27	40	67
68.	Evgeni Malkin	PIT	82	27	40	67
69.	Dylan Strome	WSH	82	27	40	67
70.	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	EDM	80	18	49	67
71.	Drake Batherson	OTT	82	28	38	66
72.	Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	32	33	65
73.	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	79	31	34	65
74.	Roope Hintz	DAL	80	30	35	65
75.	John Tavares	TOR	80	29	36	65
76.	Cole Caufield	MTL	82	28	37	65
77.	Matt Duchene	DAL	80	25	40	65
78.	Joel Eriksson Ek	MIN	77	30	34	64
79.	Claude Giroux	OTT	82	21	43	64
80.	Pavel Buchnevich	STL	80	27	36	63
81.	Mats Zuccarello	MIN	69	12	51	63
82.	Jared McCann	SEA	80	29	33	62
83.	Mike Matheson	MTL	82	11	51	62
84.	Kyle Connor	WPG	65	34	27	61
85.	Nikolaj Ehlers	WPG	82	25	36	61
86.	Connor Bedard	CHI	68	22	39	61
87.	Nick Schmaltz	ARI	79	22	39	61
88.	Frank Vatrano	ANA	82	37	23	60
89.	William Karlsson	VEG	70	30	30	60
90.	Charlie Coyle	BOS	82	25	35	60
91.	Jamie Benn	DAL	82	21	39	60
92.	Mikael Granlund	SJ	69	12	48	60
93.	Johnny Gaudreau	CLB	81	12	48	60
94.	Yegor Sharangovich	CGY	82	31	28	59
95.	Sean Monahan	MTL,WPG	83	26	33	59
96.	Alex Tuch	BUF	75	22	37	59
97.	Pavel Zacha	BOS	78	21	38	59
98.	Rasmus Dahlin	BUF	81	20	39	59
99.	Oliver Bjorkstrand	SEA	82	20	39	59
100.	Morgan Rielly	TOR	72	7	51	58
101.	Trevor Moore	LA	82	31	26	57
102.	Alexis Lafreniere	NYR	82	28	29	57
103.	Casey Mittelstadt	BUF,COL	80	18	39	57
104.	Matias Maccelli	ARI	82	17	40	57
105.	Zach Werenski	CLB	70	11	46	57
106.	Tage Thompson	BUF	71	29	27	56
107.	Bryan Rust	PIT	62	28	28	56
108.	Jonathan Drouin	COL	79	19	37	56
109.	Erik Karlsson	PIT	82	11	45	56
110.	Shayne Gostisbehere	DET	81	10	46	56
111.	Tyler Toffoli	NJ,WPG	79	33	22	55
112.	Vladimir Tarasenko	OTT,FLA	76	23	32	55
113.	Quinton Byfield	LA	80	20	35	55
114.	Michael Bunting	CAR,PIT	81	19	36	55
115.	Blake Coleman	CGY	78	30	24	54
116.	Kyle Palmieri	NYI	82	30	24	54
117.	Troy Terry	ANA	76	20	34	54
118.	Philipp Kurashev	CHI	75	18	36	54
119.	Miro Heiskanen	DAL	71	9	45	54
120.	Valeri Nichushkin	COL	54	28	25	53
121.	Owen Tippett	PHI	78	28	25	53
122.	Teuvo Teravainen	CAR	76	25	28	53
123.	Martin Necas	CAR	77	24	29	53
124.	Mason Marchment	DAL	81	22	31	53
125.	Mark Stone	VEG	56	16	37	53
126.	Timo Meier	NJ	69	28	24	52
127.	Tyler Seguin	DAL	68	25	27	52
128.	MacKenzie Weegar	CGY	82	20	32	52
129.	Andrei Svechnikov	CAR	59	19	33	52
130.	Jonathan Huberdeau	CGY	81	12	40	52
131.	John Carlson	WSH	82	10	42	52
132.	Adam Henrique	ANA,EDM	82	24	27	51
133.	Chandler Stephenson	VEG	75	16	35	51
134.	Kris Letang	PIT	82	10	41	51
135.	JJ Peterka	BUF	82	28	22	50
136.	Joel Farabee	PHI	82	22	28	50
137.	Juraj Slafkovsky	MTL	82	20	30	50
138.	Drew Doughty	LA	82	15	35	50
139.	Devon Toews	COL	82	12	38	50
140.	J.T. Compher	DET	77	19	29	48
141.	Filip Hronek	VAN	81	5	43	48
142.	Patrick Kane	DET	50	20	27	47
143.	Conor Garland	VAN	82	20	27	47
144.	Dylan Cozens	BUF	79	18	29	47
145.	David Perron	DET	76	17	30	47
146.	Phillip Danault	LA	78	17	30	47
147.	Thomas Harley	DAL	79	15	32	47
148.	Noah Hanifin	CGY,VEG	80	13	34	47
149.	Brady Skjei	CAR	80	13	34	47
150.	Charlie McAvoy	BOS	74	12	35	47
151.	Max Domi	TOR	80	9	38	47
152.	Luke Hughes	NJ	82	9	38	47
153.	Brock Faber	MIN	82	8	39	47
154.	Jeff Skinner	BUF	74	24	22	46
155.	Nick Paul	TB	82	24	22	46
156.	Andrei Kuzmenko	VAN,CGY	72	22	24	46
157.	Brayden Schenn	STL	82	20	26	46
158.	Vince Dunn	SEA	59	11	35	46
159.	Nick Bjugstad	ARI	76	22	23	45
160.	Ryan Hartman	MIN	74	21	24	45
161.	Anthony Cirelli	TB	79	20	25	45
162.	Ivan Barbashev	VEG	82	19	26	45
163.	Tommy Novak	NSH	71	18	27	45
164.	William Eklund	SJ	80	16	29	45
165.	Alex Kerfoot	ARI	82	13	32	45
166.	Mattias Ekholm	EDM	79	11	34	45
167.	Evander Kane	EDM	77	24	20	44
168.	Fabian Zetterlund	SJ	82	24	20	44
169.	Anthony Mantha	WSH,VEG	74	23	21	44
170.	Logan Cooley	ARI	82	20	24	44
171.	Jordan Eberle	SEA	78	17	27	44
172.	Elias Lindholm	CGY,VAN	75	15	29	44
173.	Travis Sanheim	PHI	81	10	34	44
174.	Tyler Bertuzzi	TOR	80	21	22	43
175.	Daniel Sprong	DET	76	18	25	43
176.	Brent Burns	CAR	82	10	33	43
177.	Brandon Saad	STL	82	26	16	42
178.	Anthony Duclair	SJ,TB	73	24	18	42
179.	Kirill Marchenko	CLB	78	23	19	42
180.	Lawson Crouse	ARI	81	23	19	42
181.	Mason McTavish	ANA	64	19	23	42
182.	Moritz Seider	DET	82	9	33	42
183.	Shea Theodore	VEG	47	5	37	42
184.	Sam Bennett	FLA	69	20	21	41
185.	Warren Foegele	EDM	82	20	21	41
186.	Eeli Tolvanen	SEA	81	16	25	41
187.	Jakob Chychrun	OTT	82	14	27	41
188.	Nicolas Roy	VEG	70	13	28	41
189.	Morgan Frost	PHI	71	13	28	41
190.	Ryan Strome	ANA	79	11	30	41
191.	Sean Durzi	ARI	76	9	32	41
192.	Marco Rossi	MIN	82	21	19	40
193.	Jake DeBrusk	BOS	80	19	21	40
194.	Trent Frederic	BOS	82	18	22	40
195.	Ross Colton	COL	80	17	23	40
196.	Pierre-Luc Dubois	LA	82	16	24	40
197.	Andrew Mangiapane	CGY	75	14	26	40
198.	Reilly Smith	PIT	76	13	27	40
199.	Morgan Geekie	BOS	76	17	22	39
200.	Luke Evangelista	NSH	80	16	23	39
201.	Mikael Backlund	CGY	82	15	24	39
202.	Scott Laughton	PHI	82	13	26	39
203.	Evan Rodrigues	FLA	80	12	27	39
204.	Gustav Forsling	FLA	79	10	29	39
205.	Rasmus Andersson	CGY	78	9	30	39
206.	Cam Fowler	ANA	81	5	34	39
207.	Torey Krug	STL	77	4	35	39
208.	Jake Neighbours	STL	77	27	11	38
209.	Cole Perfetti	WPG	71	19	19	38
210.	Tomas Hertl	SJ,VEG	54	17	21	38
211.	James van Riemsdyk	BOS	71	11	27	38
212.	Sean Couturier	PHI	74	11	27	38
213.	Jake Sanderson	OTT	79	10	28	38
214.	Anders Lee	NYI	81	20	17	37
215.	Nick Foligno	CHI	74	17	20	37
216.	Rickard Rakell	PIT	70	15	22	37
217.	Matty Beniers	SEA	77	15	22	37
218.	Stefan Noesen	CAR	81	14	23	37
219.	Vladislav Namestnikov	WPG	78	11	26	37
220.	Jaccob Slavin	CAR	81	6	31	37
221.	Nils Hoglander	VAN	80	24	12	36
222.	Gabe Vilardi	WPG	47	22	14	36
223.	Alex Killorn	ANA	63	18	18	36
224.	Danton Heinen	BOS	74	17	19	36
225.	Mason Appleton	WPG	82	14	22	36
226.	Boone Jenner	CLB	58	22	13	35
227.	Jason Dickinson	CHI	82	22	13	35
228.	Dylan Guenther	ARI	45	18	17	35
229.	Tom Wilson	WSH	74	18	17	35
230.	Erik Haula	NJ	76	16	19	35
231.	Matthew Knies	TOR	80	15	20	35
232.	Colton Sissons	NSH	81	15	20	35
233.	Anton Lundell	FLA	78	13	22	35
234.	Adam Lowry	WPG	81	12	23	35
235.	Mathieu Joseph	OTT	72	11	24	35
236.	Dmitri Voronkov	CLB	75	18	16	34
237.	Nino Niederreiter	WPG	77	18	16	34
238.	Artturi Lehkonen	COL	45	16	18	34
239.	Alex Newhook	MTL	55	15	19	34
240.	Connor Zary	CGY	63	14	20	34
241.	Tyson Foerster	PHI	77	20	13	33
242.	Dawson Mercer	NJ	82	20	13	33
243.	Connor McMichael	WSH	80	18	15	33
244.	Drew O'Connor	PIT	79	16	17	33
245.	Michael Rasmussen	DET	75	13	20	33
246.	Andrew Copp	DET	79	13	20	33
247.	Yanni Gourde	SEA	80	11	22	33
248.	Jean-Gabriel Pageau	NYI	82	11	22	33
249.	Brandon Montour	FLA	66	8	25	33
250.	Owen Power	BUF	76	6	27	33
251.	Darren Raddysh	TB	82	6	27	33
252.	Neal Pionk	WPG	82	5	28	33
253.	Alex Pietrangelo	VEG	64	4	29	33
254.	Dakota Joshua	VAN	63	18	14	32
255.	Robby Fabbri	DET	68	18	14	32
256.	Jason Zucker	ARI,NSH	69	14	18	32
257.	Jordan Martinook	CAR	82	14	18	32
258.	Cole Sillinger	CLB	77	13	19	32
259.	Darnell Nurse	EDM	81	10	22	32
260.	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	FLA	80	9	23	32
261.	Ivan Provorov	CLB	82	5	27	32
262.	Ryan McDonagh	NSH	74	3	29	32
263.	Tyler Johnson	CHI	67	17	14	31
264.	Brendan Gallagher	MTL	77	16	15	31
265.	Lars Eller	PIT	82	15	16	31
266.	Ondrej Palat	NJ	71	11	20	31
267.	Ilya Mikheyev	VAN	78	11	20	31
268.	Jack Roslovic	CLB,NYR	59	9	22	31
269.	Seth Jones	CHI	67	8	23	31
270.	Erik Gustafsson	NYR	76	6	25	31
271.	Dylan DeMelo	WPG	82	3	28	31
272.	Josh Norris	OTT	50	16	14	30
273.	Jaden Schwartz	SEA	62	13	17	30
274.	Ryan Donato	CHI	78	12	18	30
275.	Alexandre Texier	CLB	78	12	18	30
276.	Ryan McLeod	EDM	81	12	18	30
277.	Zach Benson	BUF	71	11	19	30
278.	Marcus Johansson	MIN	78	11	19	30
279.	Alex Wennberg	SEA,NYR	79	10	20	30
280.	Jordan Staal	CAR	80	10	20	30
281.	Cam York	PHI	82	10	20	30
282.	Thomas Chabot	OTT	51	9	21	30
283.	K'Andre Miller	NYR	80	8	22	30
284.	Marcus Pettersson	PIT	82	4	26	30
285.	Justin Faulk	STL	60	2	28	30
286.	Michael Carcone	ARI	74	21	8	29
287.	Yegor Chinakhov	CLB	53	16	13	29
288.	Pius Suter	VAN	67	14	15	29
289.	Kevin Hayes	STL	79	13	16	29
290.	Leo Carlsson	ANA	55	12	17	29
291.	Bowen Byram	COL,BUF	73	11	18	29
292.	Sean Walker	PHI,COL	81	10	19	29
293.	Aliaksei Protas	WSH	78	6	23	29
294.	Tyler Myers	VAN	77	5	24	29
295.	Alexander Holtz	NJ	82	16	12	28
296.	Cam Atkinson	PHI	70	13	15	28
297.	Joe Veleno	DET	80	12	16	28
298.	Ryan Poehling	PHI	77	11	17	28
299.	Jordan Greenway	BUF	67	10	18	28
300.	Pierre Engvall	NYI	74	10	18	28

POINTS PER GAME

	PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	P	P/GP
1.	Nikita Kucherov	TB	81	44	100	144	1.78
2.	Connor McDavid	EDM	76	32	100	132	1.74
3.	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	82	51	89	140	1.71
4.	Artemi Panarin	NYR	82	49	71	120	1.46
5.	David Pastrnak	BOS	82	47	63	110	1.34
6.	Auston Matthews	TOR	81	69	38	107	1.32
7.	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	81	41	65	106	1.31
8.	Mikko Rantanen	COL	80	42	62	104	1.30
9.	Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	75	46	50	96	1.28
10.	J.T. Miller	VAN	81	37	66	103	1.27
11.	Mitch Marner	TOR	69	26	59	85	1.23
12.	William Nylander	TOR	82	40	58	98	1.20
13.	Jack Hughes	NJ	62	27	47	74	1.19
14.	Cale Makar	COL	77	21	69	90	1.17
15.	Jake Guentzel	PIT,CAR	67	30	47	77	1.15
16.	Sidney Crosby	PIT	82	42	52	94	1.15
17.	Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	48	46	94	1.15
18.	Sam Reinhart	FLA	82	57	37	94	1.15
19.	Sebastian Aho	CAR	78	36	53	89	1.14
20.	Quinn Hughes	VAN	82	17	75	92	1.12
21.	Brayden Point	TB	81	46	44	90	1.11
22.	Matthew Tkachuk	FLA	80	26	62	88	1.10
23.	Aleksander Barkov	FLA	73	23	57	80	1.10
24.	Elias Pettersson	VAN	82	34	55	89	1.09
25.	Jack Eichel	VEG	63	31	37	68	1.08
26.	Robert Thomas	STL	82	26	60	86	1.05
27.	Roman Josi	NSH	82	23	62	85	1.04
28.	Steven Stamkos	TB	79	40	41	81	1.03
29.	Dylan Larkin	DET	68	33	36	69	1.01
30.	Adam Fox	NYR	72	17	56	73	1.01
31.	Evan Bouchard	EDM	81	18	64	82	1.01
32.	Jesper Bratt	NJ	82	27	56	83	1.01
33.	Mat Barzal	NYI	80	23	57	80	1.00
34.	Valeri Nichushkin	COL	54	28	25	53	0.98
35.	Jason Robertson	DAL	82	29	51	80	0.98
36.	Victor Hedman	TB	78	13	63	76	0.97
37.	Clayton Keller	ARI	78	33	43	76	0.97
38.	Adrian Kempe	LA	77	28	47	75	0.97
39.	Mark Scheifele	WPG	74	25	47	72	0.97
40.	Zach Hyman	EDM	80	54	23	77	0.96
41.	Carter Verhaeghe	FLA	76	34	38	72	0.95
42.	Mark Stone	VEG	56	16	37	53	0.95
43.	Nico Hischier	NJ	71	27	40	67	0.94
44.	Patrick Kane	DET	50	20	27	47	0.94
45.	Vincent Trocheck	NYR	82	25	52	77	0.94
46.	Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	33	44	77	0.94
47.	Kyle Connor	WPG	65	34	27	61	0.94
48.	Tim Stutzle	OTT	75	18	52	70	0.93
49.	Gustav Nyquist	NSH	81	23	52	75	0.93
50.	Matt Boldy	MIN	75	29	40	69	0.92
51.	Nazem Kadri	CGY	82	29	46	75	0.91
52.	Chris Kreider	NYR	82	39	36	75	0.91
53.	Brandon Hagel	TB	82	26	49	75	0.91
54.	Brady Tkachuk	OTT	81	37	37	74	0.91
55.	Mats Zuccarello	MIN	69	12	51	63	0.91
56.	Bryan Rust	PIT	62	28	28	56	0.90
57.	Brock Boeser	VAN	81	40	33	73	0.90
58.	Connor Bedard	CHI	68	22	39	61	0.90
59.	Travis Konecny	PHI	76	33	35	68	0.89
60.	Shea Theodore	VEG	47	5	37	42	0.89
61.	Kevin Fiala	LA	82	29	44	73	0.89
62.	Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	26	46	72	0.89
63.	Noah Dobson	NYI	79	10	60	70	0.89
64.	Andrei Svechnikov	CAR	59	19	33	52	0.88
65.	Lucas Raymond	DET	82	31	41	72	0.88
66.	Mikael Granlund	SJ	69	12	48	60	0.87
67.	Anze Kopitar	LA	81	26	44	70	0.86
68.	William Karlsson	VEG	70	30	30	60	0.86
69.	Josh Morrissey	WPG	81	10	59	69	0.85
70.	Ryan O'Reilly	NSH	82	26	43	69	0.84
71.	Brock Nelson	NYI	82	34	35	69	0.84
72.	Jonathan Marchessault	VEG	82	42	27	69	0.84
73.	Bo Horvat	NYI	81	33	35	68	0.84
74.	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	EDM	80	18	49	67	0.84
75.	Viktor Arvidsson	LA	18	6	9	15	0.83
76.	Joel Eriksson Ek	MIN	77	30	34	64	0.83
77.	Seth Jarvis	CAR	81	33	34	67	0.83
78.	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	79	31	34	65	0.82
79.	Joe Pavelski	DAL	82	27	40	67	0.82
80.	Evgeni Malkin	PIT	82	27	40	67	0.82
81.	Brad Marchand	BOS	82	29	38	67	0.82
82.	Dylan Strome	WSH	82	27	40	67	0.82
83.	Alex DeBrincat	DET	82	27	40	67	0.82
84.	Jordan Kyrou	STL	82	31	36	67	0.82
85.	Zach Werenski	CLB	70	11	46	57	0.81
86.	John Tavares	TOR	80	29	36	65	0.81
87.	Matt Duchene	DAL	80	25	40	65	0.81
88.	Roope Hintz	DAL	80	30	35	65	0.81
89.	Morgan Rielly	TOR	72	7	51	58	0.81
90.	Drake Batherson	OTT	82	28	38	66	0.80
91.	Dougie Hamilton	NJ	20	5	11	16	0.80
92.	Cole Caufield	MTL	82	28	37	65	0.79
93.	Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	32	33	65	0.79
94.	Tage Thompson	BUF	71	29	27	56	0.79
95.	Pavel Buchnevich	STL	80	27	36	63	0.79
96.	Alex Tuch	BUF	75	22	37	59	0.79
97.	Claude Giroux	OTT	82	21	43	64	0.78
98.	Vince Dunn	SEA	59	11	35	46	0.78
99.	Dylan Guenther	ARI	45	18	17	35	0.78
100.	Jared McCann	SEA	80	29	33	62	0.78

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G
1. Auston Matthews	TOR	81	69
2. Sam Reinhart	FLA	82	57
3. Zach Hyman	EDM	80	54
4. Nathan MacKinnon	COL	82	51
5. Artemi Panarin	NYR	82	49
6. Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	48
7. David Pastrnak	BOS	82	47
8. Brayden Point	TB	81	46
9. Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	75	46
10. Nikita Kucherov	TB	81	44
11. Sidney Crosby	PIT	82	42
12. Jonathan Marchessault	VEG	82	42
13. Mikko Rantanen	COL	80	42
14. Leon Draisaitl	EDM	81	41
15. Steven Stamkos	TB	79	40
16. William Nylander	TOR	82	40
17. Brock Boeser	VAN	81	40
18. Chris Kreider	NYR	82	39
19. J.T. Miller	VAN	81	37
20. Frank Vatrano	ANA	82	37
21. Brady Tkachuk	OTT	81	37
22. Sebastian Aho	CAR	78	36
23. Brock Nelson	NYI	82	34
24. Carter Verhaeghe	FLA	76	34
25. Kyle Connor	WPG	65	34
26. Elias Pettersson	VAN	82	34
27. Tyler Toffoli	NJ,WPG	79	33
28. Bo Horvat	NYI	81	33
29. Dylan Larkin	DET	68	33
30. Travis Konecny	PHI	76	33
31. Clayton Keller	ARI	78	33
32. Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	33
33. Seth Jarvis	CAR	81	33
34. Connor McDavid	EDM	76	32
35. Wyatt Johnston	DAL	82	32
36. Alex Ovechkin	WSH	79	31
37. Jack Eichel	VEG	63	31
38. Jordan Kyrou	STL	82	31
39. Trevor Moore	LA	82	31
40. Yegor Sharangovich	CGY	82	31
41. Lucas Raymond	DET	82	31
42. Kyle Palmieri	NYI	82	30
43. Blake Coleman	CGY	78	30
44. William Karlsson	VEG	70	30
45. Jake Guentzel	PIT,CAR	67	30
46. Roope Hintz	DAL	80	30
47. Joel Eriksson Ek	MIN	77	30
48. Brad Marchand	BOS	82	29
49. John Tavares	TOR	80	29
50. Nazem Kadri	CGY	82	29

PP POINTS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	PPG	PPP
1. Nikita Kucherov	TB	81	13	53
2. Nathan MacKinnon	COL	82	10	48
3. Connor McDavid	EDM	76	7	44
4. Artemi Panarin	NYR	82	11	44
5. Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	75	19	41
6. J.T. Miller	VAN	81	10	40
7. Mikko Rantanen	COL	80	14	40
8. Steven Stamkos	TB	79	19	39
9. Leon Draisaitl	EDM	81	21	39
10. Cale Makar	COL	77	7	39
11. Quinn Hughes	VAN	82	5	38
12. William Nylander	TOR	82	11	35
13. David Pastrnak	BOS	82	12	35
14. Evan Bouchard	EDM	81	8	35
15. Sam Reinhart	FLA	82	27	34
16. Roman Josi	NSH	82	9	33
17. Mats Zuccarello	MIN	69	5	33
18. Adam Fox	NYR	72	6	33
19. Filip Forsberg	NSH	82	13	32
20. Brayden Point	TB	81	15	32
21. Sebastian Aho	CAR	78	11	32
22. Matthew Tkachuk	FLA	80	6	32
23. Victor Hedman	TB	78	4	31
24. Mika Zibanejad	NYR	81	12	31
25. Elias Pettersson	VAN	82	13	31
26. Nick Suzuki	MTL	82	12	31
27. Jack Hughes	NJ	62	9	31
28. Kevin Fiala	LA	82	11	30
29. Clayton Keller	ARI	78	9	30
30. Chris Kreider	NYR	82	18	29
31. Shayne Gostisbehere	DET	81	2	29
32. Aleksander Barkov	FLA	73	5	29
33. Auston Matthews	TOR	81	18	29
34. Alex Ovechkin	WSH	79	13	28
35. Ryan O'Reilly	NSH	82	14	28
36. Mike Matheson	MTL	82	5	28
37. Jason Robertson	DAL	82	9	28
38. Adrian Kempe	LA	77	5	27
39. Mitch Marner	TOR	69	8	27
40. Jesper Bratt	NJ	82	7	27
41. Robert Thomas	STL	82	8	27
42. Brad Marchand	BOS	82	7	26
43. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	EDM	80	4	26
44. Dylan Larkin	DET	68	14	26
45. Oliver Bjorkstrand	SEA	82	8	25
46. Brock Boeser	VAN	81	16	25
47. Mat Barzal	NYI	80	5	25
48. Matt Boldy	MIN	75	10	25
49. Luke Hughes	NJ	82	4	25
50. Gustav Nyquist	NSH	81	5	24

ALEXANDAR GEORGIEV

DEFENSEMAN PTS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	P
1. Quinn Hughes	VAN	82	17	75	92
2. Cale Makar	COL	77	21	69	90
3. Roman Josi	NSH	82	23	62	85
4. Evan Bouchard	EDM	81	18	64	82
5. Victor Hedman	TB	78	13	63	76
6. Adam Fox	NYR	72	17	56	73
7. Noah Dobson	NYI	79	10	60	70
8. Josh Morrissey	WPG	81	10	59	69
9. Mike Matheson	MTL	82	11	51	62
10. Rasmus Dahlin	BUF	81	20	39	59
11. Morgan Rielly	TOR	72	7	51	58
12. Zach Werenski	CLB	70	11	46	57
13. Erik Karlsson	PIT	82	11	45	56
14. Shayne Gostisbehere	DET	81	10	46	56
15. Miro Heiskanen	DAL	71	9	45	54
16. MacKenzie Weegar	CGY	82	20	32	52
17. John Carlson	WSH	82	10	42	52
18. Kris Letang	PIT	82	10	41	51
19. Drew Doughty	LA	82	15	35	50
20. Devon Toews	COL	82	12	38	50
21. Filip Hronek	VAN	81	5	43	48
22. Thomas Harley	DAL	79	15	32	47
23. Brady Skjei	CAR	80	13	34	47
24. Noah Hanifin	CGY,VEG	80	13	34	47
25. Charlie McAvoy	BOS	74	12	35	47
26. Luke Hughes	NJ	82	9	38	47
27. Brock Faber	MIN	82	8	39	47
28. Vince Dunn	SEA	59	11	35	46
29. Mattias Ekholm	EDM	79	11	34	45
30. Travis Sanheim	PHI	81	10	34	44
31. Brent Burns	CAR	82	10	33	43
32. Moritz Seider	DET	82	9	33	42
33. Shea Theodore	VEG	47	5	37	42
34. Jakob Chychrun	OTT	82	14	27	41
35. Sean Durzi	ARI	76	9	32	41
36. Gustav Forsling	FLA	79	10	29	39
37. Rasmus Andersson	CGY	78	9	30	39
38. Cam Fowler	ANA	81	5	34	39
39. Torey Krug	STL	77	4	35	39
40. Jake Sanderson	OTT	79	10	28	38
41. Jaccob Slavin	CAR	81	6	31	37
42. Brandon Montour	FLA	66	8	25	33
43. Darren Raddysh	TB	82	6	27	33
44. Owen Power	BUF	76	6	27	33
45. Neal Pionk	WPG	82	5	28	33
46. Alex Pietrangelo	VEG	64	4	29	33
47. Darnell Nurse	EDM	81	10	22	32
48. Oliver Ekman-Larsson	FLA	80	9	23	32
49. Ivan Provorov	CLB	82	5	27	32
50. Ryan McDonagh	NSH	74	3	29	32

PIM

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	PIM
1. Liam O'Brien	ARI	75	153
2. Brady Tkachuk	OTT	81	134
3. Tom Wilson	WSH	74	133
4. Garnet Hathaway	PHI	82	132
5. Radko Gudas	ANA	66	128
6. Nikita Zadorov	CGY,VAN	75	125
7. Max Domi	TOR	80	118
8. Ross Johnston	ANA	68	117
9. Martin Pospisil	CGY	63	109
10. Michael Eyssimont	TB	81	104
11. Jonah Gadjovich	FLA	39	104
12. Sam Carrick	ANA,EDM	77	102
13. Michael McCarron	NSH	70	100
14. Sam Bennett	FLA	69	100
15. Jeremy Lauzon	NSH	79	98
16. Austin Watson	TB	33	93
17. Brenden Dillon	WPG	77	92
18. Nicolas Deslauriers	PHI	60	89
19. Matt Dumba	ARI,TB	76	88
20. Connor Clifton	BUF	79	88
21. Matthew Tkachuk	FLA	80	88
22. Josh Manson	COL	76	87
23. Ryan Strome	ANA	79	86
24. Charlie McAvoy	BOS	74	86
25. Mason McTavish	ANA	64	86
26. Evander Kane	EDM	77	85
27. Frank Vatrano	ANA	82	85
28. Luke Kunin	SJ	77	83
29. Kevin Bahl	NJ	82	82
30. Jason Zucker	ARI,NSH	69	81
31. Andreas Englund	LA	82	81
32. Arber Xhekaj	MTL	44	81
33. Ryan Lomberg	FLA	75	80
34. Darnell Nurse	EDM	81	79
35. Brandon Hagel	TB	82	79
36. Brad Marchand	BOS	82	78
37. Nick Seeler	PHI	71	78
38. Barclay Goodrow	NYR	80	78
39. Vince Dunn	SEA	59	78
40. Tyler Myers	VAN	77	77
41. Jake Middleton	MIN	80	77
42. Victor Hedman	TB	78	76
43. Oliver Ekman-Larsson	FLA	80	76
44. Blake Coleman	CGY	78	76
45. Leon Draisaitl	EDM	81	76
46. Josh Brown	ARI	51	75
47. Miles Wood	COL	74	75
48. Tanner Jeannot	TB	55	75
49. Erik Gudbranson	CLB	78	74
50. Brendan Gallagher	MTL	77	74

WINS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	W	L	OT
1. Alexandar Georgiev	COL	63	38	18	5
2. Connor Hellebuyck	WPG	60	37	19	4
3. Sergei Bobrovsky	FLA	58	36	17	4
4. Igor Shesterkin	NYR	55	36	17	2
5. Stuart Skinner	EDM	59	36	16	5
6. Juuse Saros	NSH	64	35	24	5
7. Thatcher Demko	VAN	51	35	14	2
8. Jake Oettinger	DAL	54	35	14	4
9. Andrei Vasilevskiy	TB	52	30	20	2
10. Jordan Binnington	STL	57	28	21	5
11. Cam Talbot	LA	54	27	20	6
12. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	BUF	54	27	22	4
13. Ilya Sorokin	NYI	56	25	19	12
14. Charlie Lindgren	WSH	50	25	16	7
15. Jeremy Swayman	BOS	44	25	10	8
16. Logan Thompson	VEG	46	25	14	5
17. Jacob Markstrom	CGY	48	23	23	2
18. Ilya Samsonov	TOR	40	23	7	8
19. Connor Ingram	ARI	50	23	21	3
20. Samuel Ersson	PHI	51	23	19	7
21. Pyotr Kochetkov	CAR	42	23	13	4
22. Linus Ullmark	BOS	40	22	10	7
23. Joonas Korpisalo	OTT	55	21	26	4
24. Alex Lyon	DET	44	21	18	5
25. Filip Gustavsson	MIN	45	20	18	4
26. Tristan Jarry	PIT	51	19	25	5
27. Adin Hill	VEG	35	19	12	2
28. Joey Daccord	SEA	50	19	18	11
29. Jonathan Quick	NYR	27	18	6	2
30. Petr Mrazek	CHI	56	18	31	4
31. Alex Nedeljkovic	PIT	38	18	7	7
32. Marc-Andre Fleury	MIN	40	17	15	5
33. Vitek Vanecek	NJ	32	17	9	3
34. Scott Wedgewood	DAL	32	16	7	5
35. Anthony Stolarz	FLA	27	16	7	2
36. Sam Montembeault	MTL	41	16	15	9
37. Laurent Brossoit	WPG	23	15	5	2
38. Anton Forsberg	OTT	30	15	12	0
39. Joel Hofer	STL	30	15	12	1
40. Semyon Varlamov	NYI	28	14	8	4
41. Philipp Grubauer	SEA	36	14	16	2
42. Lukas Dostal	ANA	44	14	23	3
43. Darcy Kuemper	WSH	33	13	14	3
44. Frederik Andersen	CAR	16	13	2	0
45. John Gibson	ANA	46	13	27	2
46. Elvis Merzlikins	CLB	41	13	17	8
47. Karel Vejmelka	ARI	38	13	19	2
48. David Rittich	LA	24	13	6	3
49. Jake Allen	MTL,NJ	34	12	18	4
50. Calvin Pickard	EDM	23	12	7	1

SHUTOUTS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	SO
1. Sergei Bobrovsky	FLA	58	6
2. Tristan Jarry	PIT	51	6
3. Connor Ingram	ARI	50	6
4. Charlie Lindgren	WSH	50	6
5. Connor Hellebuyck	WPG	60	5
6. Thatcher Demko	VAN	51	5
7. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	BUF	54	5
8. Igor Shesterkin	NYR	55	4
9. Samuel Ersson	PHI	51	4
10. Pyotr Kochetkov	CAR	42	4
11. Semyon Varlamov	NYI	28	3
12. Cam Talbot	LA	54	3
13. Frederik Andersen	CAR	16	3
14. Laurent Brossoit	WPG	23	3
15. Jordan Binnington	STL	57	3
16. Juuse Saros	NSH	64	3
17. Ilya Samsonov	TOR	40	3
18. Joey Daccord	SEA	50	3
19. Filip Gustavsson	MIN	45	3
20. David Rittich	LA	24	3
21. Jake Oettinger	DAL	54	3
22. Jeremy Swayman	BOS	44	3
23. Marc-Andre Fleury	MIN	40	2
24. Jonathan Quick	NYR	27	2
25. James Reimer	DET	25	2
26. Jacob Markstrom	CGY	48	2
27. Martin Jones	TOR	22	2
28. Philipp Grubauer	SEA	36	2
29. Anton Forsberg	OTT	30	2
30. Andrei Vasilevskiy	TB	52	2
31. Anthony Stolarz	FLA	27	2
32. Linus Ullmark	BOS	40	2
33. Jonas Johansson	TB	26	2
34. Ilya Sorokin	NYI	56	2
35. Mackenzie Blackwood	SJ	44	2
36. Adin Hill	VEG	35	2
37. Alex Lyon	DET	44	2
38. Stuart Skinner	EDM	59	2
39. Cayden Primeau	MTL	23	2
40. Alexandar Georgiev	COL	63	2
41. Justus Annunen	COL	14	2
42. Darcy Kuemper	WSH	33	1
43. Calvin Pickard	EDM	23	1
44. Petr Mrazek	CHI	56	1
45. Antti Raanta	CAR	24	1
46. Pheonix Copley	LA	8	1
47. Alex Nedeljkovic	PIT	38	1
48. Elvis Merzlikins	CLB	41	1
49. Kaapo Kahkonen	SJ,NJ	37	1
50. Karel Vejmelka	ARI	38	1

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

The 2024 NHL draft was held June 28-29 at the Sphere in Las Vegas. Listed below are each team's picks, including round/overall and the player's name, position and his 2023-24 team and league.

ANAHEIM DUCKS
1/3. Beckett Sennecke, RW, Oshawa (OHL)
1/23. Stian Solberg, D, Valerenga (Nor.)
2/35. Lucas Pettersson, C, Modo Jr. (Swe.)
3/66. Maxim Masse, RW, Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
3/68. Ethan Procyszyn, C, North Bay (OHL)
3/79. Tarin Smith, D, Everett (WHL)
4/100. Alexandre Blais, C, Rimouski (QMJHL)
6/182. Austin Burnevik, RW, Madison (USHL)
7/214. Darels Uljanskis, D, AIK Jr. (Swe.)

BOSTON BRUINS
1/25. Dean Letourneau, C, St. Andrew's (CAHS)
4/110. Elliott Groenewold, D, Cedar Rapids (USHL)
5/154. Jonathan Morello, C, St. Michael's (OJHL)
6/186. Loke Johansson, D, AIK Jr. (Swe.)

BUFFALO SABRES
1/14. Konsta Helenius, C, Jukurit (Fin.)
2/42. Adam Kleber, D, Lincoln (USHL)
3/71. Brodie Ziemer, RW, USA U18 (NTDP)
4/108. Luke Osburn, D, Youngstown (USHL)
4/123. Simon Pier Brunet, D, Drummondville (QMJHL)
6/172. Patrick Geary, D, RB Juniors (AlpsHL)
7/204. Vasily Zelenov, RW, Mississauga (OHL)
7/219. Ryerson Leenders, G, Michigan State (Big Ten)

CALGARY FLAMES
1/9. Zayne Parekh, D, Saginaw (OHL)
1/28. Matvei Gridin, RW, Muskegon (USHL)
2/41. Andrew Basha, LW, Medicine Hat (WHL)
2/62. Jacob Battaglia, RW, Kingston (OHL)
3/74. Henry Mews, D, Ottawa (OHL)
3/84. Kirill Zarubin, G, AKM-Jr. TR/AKM Tula Jr. (Rus.)
4/106. Trevor Hoskin, RW, Cobourg (OJHL)
5/150. Luke Misa, C, Mississauga (OHL)
6/170. Hunter Laing, C, Prince George (WHL)
6/177. Eric Jamieson, D, Everett (WHL)

CAROLINA HURRICANES
2/34. Dominik Badinka, D, Malmo Jr. (Swe.)
2/50. Nikita Artamonov, LW, Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)
3/69. Noel Fransen, D, Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)
4/124. Alexander Siryatsky, D, Magnitogorsk Jr. (Rus.)
5/133. Oskar Vuollet, LW, Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)
5/156. Justin Poirier, RW, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)
6/168. Timur Kol, D, Omsk (Rus.2)
6/184. Roman Shokhrin, D, Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)
6/188. Fyodor Avramov, LW, Stupino Jr. (Rus.)
7/220. Andrey Krutov, LW, Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS
1/2. Artyom Levshunov, D, Michigan State (Big Ten)
1/18. Sacha Boisvert, C, Muskegon (USHL)
1/27. Marek Vanacker, LW, Brantford (OHL)
3/67. John Mustard, C, Waterloo (USHL)
3/72. AJ Spellacy, RW, Windsor (OHL)
3/92. Jack Pridham, RW, West Kelowna (BCHL)
5/138. Joel Svensson, C, Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)
6/163. Ty Henry, D, Erie (OHL)

COLORADO AVALANCHE
2/38. Ilya Nabokov, G, Magnitogorsk (KHL)
3/76. William Zellers, LW, Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)
4/121. Jake Fisher, C, Fargo (USHL)
5/132. Louka Cloutier, G, Chicago (USHL)
5/137. Ivan Yunin, G, Omsk Jr. (Rus.)
5/161. Maxmilian Curran, C, Tri-City (WHL)
6/185. Tory Pitner, D, Youngstown (USHL)
7/215. Christian Humphreys, C, USA U18 (NTDP)
7/217. Nikita Prishchepov, C, Victoriaville (QMJHL)

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS
1/4. Cayden Lindstrom, C, Medicine Hat (WHL)
2/36. Charlie Elick, D, Brandon (WHL)
2/60. Evan Gardner, G, Saskatoon (WHL)
3/86. Luca Marrelli, D, Oshawa (OHL)
4/101. Tanner Henricks, D, Lincoln (USHL)
6/165. Luke Ashton, D, Langley (BCHL)

DALLAS STARS
1/29. Emil Hemming, RW, TPS (Fin.)
5/158. Niilopekka Muhonen, D, KalPa Jr. (Fin.)
7/222. William Samuelsson, C, Sodertalje Jr. (Swe.)

FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	HT./WT.	2023-24 TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
1.	SJ	Macklin Celebrini	C	6-0/190	Boston Univ. (HE)	38	32	32	64	18
2.	Chi	Artyom Levshunov	D	6-2/208	Michigan State (Big Ten)	38	9	26	35	44
3.	Ana	Beckett Sennecke	RW	6-2/177	Oshawa (OHL)	63	27	41	68	67
4.	Clb	Cayden Lindstrom	C	6-3/210	Medicine Hat (WHL)	32	27	19	46	66
5.	Mtl	Ivan Demidov	RW	6-1/192	SKA-1946 Jr. (Rus.)	30	23	37	60	20
6.	Uth	Tij Iginla	C	6-0/182	Kelowna (WHL)	64	47	37	84	35
7.	Ott	Carter Yakemchuk	D	6-3/201	Calgary (WHL)	66	30	41	71	120
8.	Sea	Berkly Catton	C	5-10/170	Spokane (WHL)	68	54	62	116	41
9.	Cgy	Zayne Parekh	D	6-0/179	Saginaw (OHL)	66	33	63	96	64
10.	NJ	Anton Silayev	D	6-7/211	Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	63	3	8	11	10
11.	SJ	Sam Dickinson	D	6-3/199	London (OHL)	68	18	52	70	30
12.	Min	Zeev Buium	D	6-0/183	Denver (NCHC)	42	11	39	50	20
13.	Phi	Jett Luchanko	C	5-11/180	Guelph (OHL)	68	20	54	74	36
14.	Buf	Konsta Helenius	C	5-11/180	Jukurit (Fin.)	51	14	22	36	10
15.	Det	M. Brandsegg-Nygard	RW	6-1/198	Mora (Swe.2)	41	8	10	18	19
16.	StL	Adam Jiricek	D	6-3/178	Plzen (Cze.)	19	0	1	1	2
17.	Wsh	Terik Parascak	RW	6-0/173	Prince George (WHL)	68	43	62	105	41
18.	Chi	Sacha Boisvert	C	6-2/176	Muskegon (USHL)	61	36	32	68	86
19.	Veg	Trevor Connelly	LW	6-0/156	Tri-City (USHL)	52	31	47	78	88
20.	NYI	Cole Eiserman	LW	6-0/195	USA U18 (NTDP)	57	58	31	89	34
21.	Mtl	Michael Hage	C	6-1/187	Chicago (USHL)	54	33	42	75	53
22.	Nsh	Egor Surin	C	6-1/197	Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)	43	23	30	53	108
23.	Ana	Stian Solberg	D	6-2/194	Valerenga (Nor.)	42	5	10	15	47
24.	Uth	Cole Beaudoin	C	6-2/209	Barrie (OHL)	67	28	34	62	27
25.	Bos	Dean Letourneau	C	6-7/210	St. Andrew's (CAHS)	56	61	66	127	74
26.	LA	Liam Greentree	RW	6-2/207	Windsor (OHL)	64	36	54	90	33
27.	Chi	Marek Vanacker	LW	6-1/174	Brantford (OHL)	68	36	46	82	55
28.	Cgy	Matvei Gridin	RW	6-1/182	Muskegon (USHL)	60	38	45	83	51
29.	Dal	Emil Hemming	RW	6-1/201	TPS (Fin.)	40	7	4	11	0
30.	NYR	EJ Emery	D	6-3/185	USA U18 (NTDP)	61	0	16	16	61
31.	Tor	Ben Danford	D	6-1/188	Oshawa (OHL)	64	1	32	33	25
32.	Edm	Sam O'Reilly	RW	6-1/178	London (OHL)	68	20	36	56	34

DETROIT RED WINGS
1/15. Michael Brandsegg-Nygard, RW, Mora (Swe.2)
2/47. Max Plante, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
3/80. Ondrej Becher, C, Prince George (WHL)
4/126. Landon Miller, G, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
5/144. John Whipple, D, USA U18 (NTDP)
6/176. Charlie Forslund, LW, Falun Jr. (Swe.)
7/203. Austin Baker, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
7/208. Fisher Scott, D, Dubuque (USHL)

EDMONTON OILERS
1/32. Sam O'Reilly, RW, London (OHL)
2/64. Eemil Vinni, G, Kiekko-Pojat (Fin.2)
5/160. Connor Clattenburg, C, Soo/Flint (OHL)
6/183. Albin Sundin, D, Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)
6/192. Dalyn Wakely, C, North Bay (OHL)
7/196. William Nicholl, C, London (OHL)
7/218. Bauer Berry, D, Muskegon (USHL)

FLORIDA PANTHERS
2/58. Linus Eriksson, C, Djurgarden (Swe.2)
3/97. Matvei Shuravin, D, K.A. Moscow Jr. (Rus.)
4/129. Simon Zether, C, Rogle (Swe.)
6/169. Stepan Gorbunov, C, Chelyabinsk Jr. (Rus.)
6/193. Hunter St Martin, LW, Medicine Hat (WHL)
7/201. Denis Gabdrakhmanov, G, Tyumen Jr. (Rus.)

LOS ANGELES KINGS
1/26. Liam Greentree, RW, Windsor (OHL)
2/57. Carter George, G, Owen Sound (OHL)
6/164. Jared Woolley, D, London (OHL)
7/198. James Reeder, RW, Dubuque (USHL)

MINNESOTA WILD
1/12. Zeev Buium, D, Denver (NCHC)
2/45. Ryder Ritchie, RW, Prince Albert (WHL)
4/122. Aron Kiviharju, D, HIFK (Fin.)
5/140. Sebastian Soini, D, Koovee (Fin.2)
5/142. Chase Wutzke, G, Red Deer (WHL)
6/174. Stevie Leskovar, D, Mississauga (OHL)

MONTREAL CANADIENS
1/5. Ivan Demidov, RW, SKA-1946 St. Pete. Jr. (Rus.)
1/21. Michael Hage, C, Chicago (USHL)
3/70. Aatos Koivu, C, TPS Jr. (Fin.)
3/78. Logan Sawyer, C, Brooks (AJHL)
4/102. Owen Protz, D, Sudbury/Brantford (OHL)
5/130. Tyler Thorpe, RW, Vancouver (WHL)
5/134. Mikus Vecvanags, G, HS Riga (Lat.)
6/166. Ben Merrill, C, St. Sebastian's (USHS)
7/210. Makar Khanin, RW, Dynamo St. Petersburg (Rus.2)
7/224. Rasmus Bergqvist, D, Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)

NASHVILLE PREDATORS
1/22. Egor Surin, C, Loko-76/Loko Jr. (Rus.)
2/55. Teddy Stiga, C, USA U18 (NTDP)
3/77. Viggo Gustafsson, D, HV71 Jr. (Swe.)
3/87. Miguel Marques, RW, Lethbridge (WHL)
4/94. Hiroki Gojsic, RW, Kelowna (WHL)
4/99. Jakub Milota, G, Cape Breton (QMJHL)
4/127. Viktor Norringer, LW, Frolunda Jr. (Swe.)
7/213. Erik Pahlsson, C, Dubuque (USHL)

NEW JERSEY DEVILS
1/10. Anton Silayev, D, Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)
2/49. Mikhail Yegorov, G, Omaha (USHL)
3/85. Kasper Pikkarainen, RW, TPS Jr. (Fin.)
3/91. Herman Traff, RW, HV71 Jr. (Swe.)
5/139. Max Graham, C, Kelowna (WHL)
5/146. Veeti Louhivaara, G, JYP Jr. (Fin.)
6/171. Matyas Melovsky, C, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)

NEW YORK ISLANDERS
1/20. Cole Eiserman, LW, USA U18 (NTDP)
2/54. Jesse Pulkkinen, D, JYP (Fin.)
2/61. Kamil Bednarik, C, USA U18 (NTDP)
4/115. Dmitry Gamzin, G, Zvezda Moskva (Rus.2)
5/147. Marcus Gidlof, G, Leksand Jr. (Swe.)
6/179. Xavier Veilleux, D, Muskegon (USHL)

NEW YORK RANGERS
1/30. EJ Emery, D, USA U18 (NTDP)
4/119. Raoul Boilard, C, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)
5/159. Nathan Aspinall, LW, Flint (OHL)
6/191. Rico Gredig, LW, Davos (Sui.)

OTTAWA SENATORS
1/7. Carter Yakemchuk, D, Calgary (WHL)
2/39. Gabriel Eliasson, D, HV71 Jr. (Swe.)
4/104. Lucas Ellinas, LW, Kitchener (OHL)
4/112. Javon Moore, LW, Minnetonka (USHS)
4/117. Blake Montgomery, LW, Lincoln (USHL)
5/136. Eerik Wallenius, D, HPK Jr. (Fin.)

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS
1/13. Jett Luchanko, C, Guelph (OHL)
2/51. Jack Berglund, C, Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)
2/59. Spencer Gill, D, Rimouski (QMJHL)
4/107. Heikki Ruohonen, C, Kiekko-Espoo Jr. (Fin.)
5/148. Noah Powell, RW, Dubuque (USHL)
6/173. Ilya Pautov, RW, K.A. Moscow Jr. (Rus.)
7/205. Austin Moline, D, Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
2/44. Harrison Brunicke, D, Kamloops (WHL)
2/46. Tanner Howe, LW, Regina (WHL)
4/111. Chase Pietila, D, Michigan Tech (CCHA)
6/175. Joona Vaisanen, D, Dubuque (USHL)
7/207. Mac Swanson, C, Fargo (USHL)

SAN JOSE SHARKS
1/1. Macklin Celebrini, C, Boston Univ. (HE)
1/11. Sam Dickinson, D, London (OHL)
2/33. Igor Chernyshov, LW, Dynamo Moscow (KHL)
2/53. Leo Sahlin Wallenius, D, Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)
3/82. Carson Wetsch, RW, Calgary (WHL)
4/116. Christian Kirsch, G, Zug Jr. (Sui.)
5/131. Colton Roberts, D, Vancouver (WHL)
5/143. Nate Misskey, D, Victoria (WHL)
7/194. Yaroslav Korostelyov, G, Kras./SKA-1946 Jr. (Rus.)

SEATTLE KRAKEN
1/8. Berkly Catton, C, Spokane (WHL)
2/40. Julius Miettinen, C, Everett (WHL)
2/63. Nathan Villeneuve, C, Sudbury (OHL)
3/73. Alexis Bernier, D, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)
3/88. Kim Saarinen, G, HPK Jr. (Fin.)
4/105. Ollie Josephson, C, Red Deer (WHL)
5/141. Clarke Caswell, LW, Swift Current (WHL)
7/202. Jakub Fibigr, D, Mississauga (OHL)

ST. LOUIS BLUES
1/16. Adam Jiricek, D, Plzen (Cze.)
2/48. Colin Ralph, D, Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)
2/56. Lukas Fischer, D, Sarnia (OHL)
3/81. Ondrej Kos, LW, Koovee (Fin.2)
3/95. Adam Jecho, C, Edmonton (WHL)
4/113. Tomas Mrsic, C, Medicine Hat (WHL)
5/145. William McIsaac, D, Spokane (WHL)
7/209. Antoine Dorion, C, Quebec (QMJHL)
7/211. Matvei Korotky, C, SKA-1946 St. Pete. Jr. (Rus.)

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING
4/118. Jan Golicic, D, Gatineau (QMJHL)
4/128. Hagen Burrows, RW, Minnetonka (USHS)
5/149. Joona Saarelainen, C, KalPa Jr. (Fin.)
6/181. Kaden Pitre, C, Flint (OHL)
7/195. Joe Connor, LW, Muskegon (USHL)
7/199. Noah Steen, LW, Mora (Swe.2)
7/206. Harrison Meneghin, G, Lethbridge (WHL)

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS
1/31. Ben Danford, D, Oshawa (OHL)
4/120. Victor Johansson, D, Leksand Jr. (Swe.)
5/151. Miroslav Holinka, C, Trinec Jr. (Cze.)
5/152. Alexander Plesovskikh, LW, Khanty-Mans. Jr. (Rus.)
5/157. Timofei Obvintsev, G, K.A. Moscow Jr. (Rus.)
7/200. Matt Lahey, D, Nanaimo (BCHL)
7/216. Sam McCue, LW, Peterborough/Owen Sound (OHL)
7/225. Nathan Mayes, D, Spokane (WHL)

UTAH HOCKEY CLUB
1/6. Tij Iginla, C, Kelowna (WHL)
1/24. Cole Beaudoin, C, Barrie (OHL)
2/65. Will Skahan, D, USA U18 (NTDP)
3/89. Tomas Lavoie, D, Cape Breton (QMJHL)
3/96. Veeti Vaisanen, D, KooKoo (Fin.)
4/98. Gregor Biber, D, Rogle Jr. (Swe.)
4/103. Gabe Smith, C, Moncton (QMJHL)
5/135. Owen Allard, C, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
5/153. Ales Cech, D, Mlada Boleslav (Cze.)
6/167. Vojtech Hradec, C, Mlada Boleslav (Cze.)
6/190. Ludvig Lafton, D, Asker (Nor.)

VANCOUVER CANUCKS
3/93. Melvin Fernstrom, RW, Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
4/125. Riley Patterson, C, Barrie (OHL)
6/162. Anthony Romani, C, North Bay (OHL)
6/189. Parker Alcos, D, Edmonton (WHL)
7/221. Basile Sansonnens, D, Fribourg Jr. (Sui.)

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS
1/19. Trevor Connelly, LW, Tri-City (USHL)
3/83. Pavel Moysevich, G, SKA-Neva (Rus.2)
6/180. Trent Swick, LW, Kitchener (OHL)
7/197. Lucas Van Vliet, C, USA U18 (NTDP)

WASHINGTON CAPITALS
1/17. Terik Parascak, RW, Prince George (WHL)
2/43. Cole Hutson, D, USA U18 (NTDP)
2/52. Leon Muggli, D, Zug (Sui.)
3/75. Ilya Protas, LW, Des Moines (USHL)
3/90. Eriks Mateiko, LW, Saint John (QMJHL)
4/114. Nicholas Kempf, G, USA U18 (NTDP)
6/178. Petr Sikora, C, Trinec Jr. (Cze.)
7/212. Miroslav Satan, C, Bratislava Jr./SVK Jr. (Svk.)

WINNIPEG JETS
2/37. Alfons Freij, D, Vaxjo Jr. (Swe.)
4/109. Kevin He, LW, Niagara (OHL)
5/155. Markus Loponen, C, Karpat Jr. (Fin.)
6/187. Kieron Walton, C, Sudbury (OHL)

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The Hockey News

OCTOBER

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Friday, Oct. 4		
New Jersey	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 5		
Buffalo	New Jersey	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Oct. 8		
St. Louis	Seattle	4:30 PM
Boston	Florida	7:00 PM
Chicago	Utah	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 9		
Toronto	Montreal	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Calgary	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Colorado	Vegas	10:00 PM
Thursday, Oct. 10		
Montreal	Boston	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Florida	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Detroit	7:00 PM
Toronto	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Utah	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Dallas	Nashville	8:00 PM
Columbus	Minnesota	8:00 PM
St. Louis	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 11		
Tampa Bay	Carolina	7:00 PM
Chicago	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Vancouver	10:00 PM
St. Louis	Vegas	10:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 12		
Los Angeles	Boston	1:00 PM
Florida	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Toronto	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Montreal	7:00 PM
Nashville	Detroit	7:00 PM
Carolina	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Utah	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Washington	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Dallas	8:00 PM
Seattle	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Columbus	Colorado	9:00 PM
Philadelphia	Calgary	10:00 PM
Chicago	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Anaheim	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Oct. 13		
Minnesota	Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Seattle	Dallas	8:00 PM
Calgary	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Vegas	10:00 PM
Monday, Oct. 14		
Florida	Boston	1:00 PM
Los Angeles	Ottawa	1:00 PM
Utah	New Jersey	1:00 PM
Detroit	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Montreal	7:30 PM
NY Islanders	Colorado	9:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 15		
Vancouver	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Vegas	Washington	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Carolina	7:00 PM
Florida	Columbus	7:00 PM
Minnesota	St. Louis	7:30 PM
Seattle	Nashville	8:00 PM
San Jose	Dallas	8:00 PM
Chicago	Calgary	9:00 PM
Philadelphia	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 16		
Buffalo	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Toronto	7:30 PM
Boston	Colorado	9:30 PM
Utah	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thursday, Oct. 17		
Los Angeles	Montreal	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Detroit	7:00 PM
Vegas	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Florida	7:00 PM
Dallas	Washington	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Columbus	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Nashville	8:00 PM
San Jose	Chicago	8:30 PM
Philadelphia	Seattle	10:00 PM
Friday, Oct. 18		
Carolina	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
San Jose	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Colorado	9:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 19		
Tampa Bay	Ottawa	1:00 PM
Detroit	Nashville	2:00 PM
Edmonton	Dallas	4:00 PM
Vegas	Florida	6:00 PM
NY Rangers	Toronto	7:00 PM
Washington	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Montreal	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Columbus	7:00 PM
Carolina	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Chicago	8:00 PM
Boston	Utah	9:00 PM
Calgary	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Oct. 20		
Pittsburgh	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Colorado	San Jose	4:00 PM
Los Angeles	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Oct. 21		
Tampa Bay	Toronto	7:30 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 22		
Washington	Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Minnesota	Florida	6:30 PM
Tampa Bay	New Jersey	6:45 PM
Dallas	Buffalo	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Montreal	7:15 PM
Toronto	Columbus	7:30 PM
Detroit	NY Islanders	7:45 PM
Winnipeg	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Chicago	8:15 PM
Boston	Nashville	8:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Calgary	8:45 PM
Carolina	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Ottawa	Utah	9:15 PM
San Jose	Anaheim	9:45 PM
Colorado	Seattle	10:30 PM
Los Angeles	Vegas	11:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 23		
Philadelphia	Washington	7:30 PM
Thursday, Oct. 24		
Dallas	Boston	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Toronto	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Detroit	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Florida	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Carolina	Calgary	9:00 PM
Colorado	Utah	9:00 PM
Winnipeg	Seattle	10:00 PM
San Jose	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 25		
Ottawa	Vegas	6:00 PM
NY Islanders	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Nashville	Chicago	8:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 26		
Detroit	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Minnesota	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Utah	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Toronto	Boston	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Montreal	7:00 PM
Washington	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Anaheim	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Calgary	7:00 PM
Florida	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Columbus	Nashville	8:00 PM
Chicago	Dallas	8:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Vancouver	10:00 PM
San Jose	Vegas	10:00 PM
Carolina	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Oct. 27		
Edmonton	Detroit	6:00 PM
Anaheim	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Montreal	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Colorado	9:00 PM
Monday, Oct. 28		
Florida	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Nashville	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Columbus	7:00 PM
Toronto	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Chicago	Colorado	9:00 PM
San Jose	Utah	9:00 PM
Carolina	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Calgary	Vegas	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 29		
Philadelphia	Boston	7:00 PM
Seattle	Montreal	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Washington	7:00 PM
Anaheim	NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	San Jose	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 30		
NY Islanders	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Detroit	7:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Colorado	9:00 PM
Calgary	Utah	9:30 PM
New Jersey	Vancouver	10:30 PM
Vegas	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thursday, Oct. 31		
Seattle	Toronto	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Montreal	Washington	7:00 PM
Boston	Carolina	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Nashville	8:00 PM
Chicago	San Jose	10:30 PM

NOVEMBER

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Friday, Nov. 1		
Florida	Dallas	1:00 PM
NY Islanders	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Ottawa	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Columbus	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Minnesota	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Calgary	9:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 2		
Dallas	Florida	11:00 AM
Boston	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Chicago	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Columbus	Washington	5:00 PM
Seattle	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Detroit	7:00 PM
Montreal	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Toronto	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Colorado	Nashville	8:00 PM
Utah	Vegas	10:00 PM
Vancouver	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 3		
NY Islanders	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Seattle	Boston	5:00 PM
Washington	Carolina	5:00 PM
Toronto	Minnesota	6:00 PM
Edmonton	Calgary	8:00 PM
Chicago	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 4		
Los Angeles	Nashville	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Edmonton	8:30 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 5		
Ottawa	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Boston	Toronto	7:00 PM
Calgary	Montreal	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Carolina	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tampa Bay	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Utah	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Seattle	Colorado	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Columbus	San Jose	10:30 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 6		
Nashville	Washington	7:00 PM
Detroit	Chicago	8:00 PM
Vegas	Edmonton	8:30 PM
Thursday, Nov. 7		
Calgary	Boston	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Nashville	Florida	7:00 PM
Montreal	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Buffalo	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Carolina	7:00 PM
Utah	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Chicago	Dallas	8:00 PM
Colorado	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Minnesota	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, Nov. 8		
Detroit	Toronto	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Washington	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Vegas	Seattle	10:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 9		
Calgary	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Philadelphia	Florida	6:00 PM
Ottawa	Boston	7:00 PM
Montreal	Toronto	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Detroit	7:00 PM
Washington	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Dallas	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
New Jersey	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Utah	Nashville	8:00 PM
Carolina	Colorado	9:00 PM
Columbus	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 10		
San Jose	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Chicago	7:00 PM
Columbus	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 11		
Montreal	Buffalo	12:30 PM
San Jose	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Dallas	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Calgary	8:30 PM
Nashville	Colorado	9:00 PM
Carolina	Vegas	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 12		
Ottawa	Toronto	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Florida	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Boston	St. Louis	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Calgary	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Columbus	Seattle	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 13		
Detroit	Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Toronto	Washington	7:30 PM
Carolina	Utah	9:00 PM
Los Angeles	Colorado	10:00 PM
Vegas	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thursday, Nov. 14		
St. Louis	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Florida	7:00 PM
San Jose	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Boston	Dallas	8:00 PM
Montreal	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Nashville	Edmonton	9:00 PM
NY Islanders	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Chicago	Seattle	10:00 PM
Friday, Nov. 15		
Pittsburgh	Columbus	7:00 PM
Washington	Colorado	9:00 PM
Nashville	Calgary	9:00 PM
Vegas	Utah	9:00 PM
Detroit	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 16		
St. Louis	Boston	1:00 PM
NY Islanders	Seattle	4:00 PM
Edmonton	Toronto	7:00 PM
Columbus	Montreal	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Florida	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
San Jose	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Carolina	7:00 PM
Dallas	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Detroit	Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Chicago	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 17		
St. Louis	Carolina	5:00 PM
Nashville	Vancouver	8:00 PM
Washington	Vegas	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Seattle	9:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 18		
Columbus	Boston	7:00 PM
Colorado	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Montreal	7:30 PM
Anaheim	Dallas	8:00 PM
Washington	Utah	9:00 PM
Detroit	San Jose	10:30 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 19		
Edmonton	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Minnesota	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Florida	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Chicago	8:30 PM
NY Islanders	Calgary	9:00 PM
NY Rangers	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 20		
Vegas	Toronto	7:30 PM
Carolina	Philadelphia	7:30 PM
San Jose	Dallas	8:00 PM
Nashville	Seattle	10:00 PM
Buffalo	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thursday, Nov. 21		
Utah	Boston	7:00 PM
Vegas	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Detroit	7:00 PM
Carolina	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Colorado	Washington	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Columbus	7:00 PM
San Jose	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Florida	Chicago	8:30 PM
NY Rangers	Calgary	9:00 PM
Minnesota	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Friday, Nov. 22		
Winnipeg	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 23		
Chicago	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Minnesota	Calgary	4:00 PM
Seattle	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Colorado	Florida	6:00 PM
Vegas	Montreal	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Boston	Detroit	7:00 PM
Dallas	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Utah	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Washington	7:00 PM
Carolina	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Nashville	7:00 PM
St. Louis	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Buffalo	San Jose	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 24		
Utah	Toronto	7:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 25		
Colorado	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Washington	Florida	7:00 PM
Nashville	New Jersey	7:00 PM
St. Louis	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Vegas	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Dallas	Carolina	7:00 PM
Calgary	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Detroit	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Seattle	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Los Angeles	San Jose	10:30 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 26		
Vancouver	Boston	7:00 PM
Utah	Montreal	7:00 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 27		
Minnesota	Buffalo	7:00 PM
St. Louis	New Jersey	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Carolina	7:00 PM
Calgary	Detroit	7:30 PM
Washington	Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Toronto	Florida	7:30 PM
Boston	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Vancouver	Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Montreal	Columbus	7:30 PM
Philadelphia	Nashville	8:00 PM
Dallas	Chicago	8:30 PM
Vegas	Colorado	10:00 PM
Winnipeg	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Anaheim	Seattle	10:00 PM
Ottawa	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, Nov. 29		
NY Rangers	Philadelphia	1:00 PM

All times Eastern (ET)

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Chicago	Minnesota	2:00 PM
Vancouver	Buffalo	3:00 PM
New Jersey	Detroit	3:00 PM
NY Islanders	Washington	3:00 PM
Florida	Carolina	3:00 PM
Calgary	Columbus	3:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Nashville	3:00 PM
Los Angeles	Anaheim	3:30 PM
Seattle	San Jose	3:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Boston	6:00 PM
Colorado	Dallas	8:30 PM
Winnipeg	Vegas	8:30 PM
Edmonton	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 30		
Montreal	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Carolina	Florida	4:00 PM
Toronto	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Washington	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Calgary	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Buffalo	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Nashville	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Colorado	10:00 PM
Utah	Vegas	10:00 PM
San Jose	Seattle	10:00 PM
DECEMBER		
Sunday, Dec. 1		
Vancouver	Detroit	12:30 PM
Montreal	Boston	3:00 PM
Columbus	Chicago	3:00 PM
Winnipeg	Dallas	4:30 PM
Ottawa	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 2		
New Jersey	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Chicago	Toronto	7:30 PM
Dallas	Utah	9:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 3		
Detroit	Boston	7:00 PM
Colorado	Buffalo	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Montreal	7:00 PM
Florida	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
San Jose	Washington	7:00 PM
Seattle	Carolina	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Minnesota	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Columbus	Calgary	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Vegas	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 4		
Nashville	Toronto	7:30 PM
Boston	Chicago	7:30 PM
Vegas	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Dallas	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 5		
Winnipeg	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Nashville	Montreal	7:00 PM
Detroit	Ottawa	7:00 PM
San Jose	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Florida	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Colorado	Carolina	7:00 PM
Seattle	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
St. Louis	Calgary	9:00 PM
Columbus	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 6		
Washington	Toronto	7:00 PM
Seattle	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Columbus	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Dallas	Vegas	10:00 PM
Minnesota	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 7		
Philadelphia	Boston	1:00 PM
Utah	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Winnipeg	Chicago	4:00 PM
Carolina	NY Islanders	5:00 PM
San Jose	Florida	6:00 PM
Washington	Montreal	7:00 PM
Nashville	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Colorado	Detroit	7:00 PM
Toronto	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Los Angeles	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 8		
Seattle	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Vancouver	4:00 PM
NY Islanders	Ottawa	5:30 PM
Columbus	Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Colorado	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Utah	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Calgary	Dallas	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 9		
Detroit	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Chicago	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Montreal	7:30 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 10		
Toronto	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Colorado	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
San Jose	Carolina	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Columbus	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Calgary	Nashville	8:00 PM
Boston	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Minnesota	Utah	9:00 PM
St. Louis	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Florida	Seattle	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 11		
NY Rangers	Buffalo	7:30 PM
Anaheim	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thursday, Dec. 12		
Anaheim	Toronto	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Montreal	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Detroit	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Washington	Columbus	7:00 PM
Chicago	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
San Jose	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Nashville	Dallas	8:00 PM
Edmonton	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Vegas	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Utah	Colorado	9:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Calgary	9:00 PM
Florida	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Boston	Seattle	10:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 13		
Ottawa	Carolina	7:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 14		
Chicago	New Jersey	1:00 PM
Los Angeles	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Philadelphia	Minnesota	2:00 PM
Vegas	Edmonton	4:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Toronto	Detroit	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Washington	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Columbus	7:00 PM
Montreal	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Dallas	8:00 PM
Nashville	Colorado	9:00 PM
Florida	Calgary	10:00 PM
Boston	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Utah	San Jose	10:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 15		
NY Islanders	Chicago	3:00 PM
Buffalo	Toronto	5:00 PM
Columbus	Carolina	5:00 PM
NY Rangers	St. Louis	6:00 PM
Vegas	Minnesota	6:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 16		
Washington	Dallas	8:00 PM
Florida	Edmonton	8:30 PM
Colorado	Vancouver	10:30 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 17		
Buffalo	Montreal	7:00 PM
Columbus	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Carolina	7:00 PM
New Jersey	St. Louis	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Nashville	8:00 PM
Washington	Chicago	8:30 PM
Boston	Calgary	9:00 PM
Ottawa	Seattle	10:00 PM
Winnipeg	San Jose	10:30 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 18		
Philadelphia	Detroit	7:00 PM
Toronto	Dallas	7:30 PM
Florida	Minnesota	9:30 PM
Vancouver	Utah	10:00 PM
Winnipeg	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 19		
St. Louis	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Columbus	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Nashville	8:00 PM
Seattle	Chicago	8:30 PM
Ottawa	Calgary	9:00 PM
Boston	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Vegas	10:00 PM
Colorado	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 20		
Toronto	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Montreal	Detroit	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Florida	7:00 PM
Carolina	Washington	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Dallas	8:00 PM
Utah	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Colorado	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 21		
Los Angeles	Nashville	1:30 PM
Chicago	Calgary	4:00 PM
San Jose	Edmonton	4:00 PM
Buffalo	Boston	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Toronto	7:00 PM
Detroit	Montreal	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Columbus	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Seattle	Vegas	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 22		
Carolina	NY Rangers	12:30 PM
Florida	Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
Los Angeles	Washington	5:00 PM
Anaheim	Utah	5:00 PM
Seattle	Colorado	8:00 PM
Ottawa	Edmonton	8:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 23		
NY Rangers	New Jersey	1:00 PM
Winnipeg	Toronto	2:00 PM
Washington	Boston	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Detroit	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Florida	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Montreal	Columbus	7:00 PM
Buffalo	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Carolina	Nashville	8:00 PM
Chicago	Minnesota	8:00 PM
San Jose	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Dallas	Utah	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Vegas	10:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 27		
Chicago	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Toronto	Detroit	7:00 PM
Carolina	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Boston	Columbus	7:00 PM
Nashville	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Dallas	8:00 PM
Colorado	Utah	9:00 PM
Vegas	San Jose	10:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 28		
Montreal	Florida	1:00 PM
Seattle	Vancouver	4:00 PM
Philadelphia	Anaheim	4:00 PM
Edmonton	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Columbus	Boston	7:00 PM
Washington	Toronto	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Carolina	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Calgary	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 29		
Dallas	Chicago	3:00 PM
Edmonton	Anaheim	4:00 PM
Washington	Detroit	5:00 PM
Montreal	Tampa Bay	5:00 PM
NY Islanders	Pittsburgh	5:30 PM
Buffalo	St. Louis	6:00 PM
Ottawa	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Calgary	Vegas	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 30		
NY Rangers	Florida	7:00 PM
Nashville	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Utah	Seattle	8:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 31		
Boston	Washington	12:30 PM
NY Islanders	Toronto	1:00 PM
Montreal	Vegas	3:00 PM
St. Louis	Chicago	5:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Detroit	8:00 PM
Carolina	Columbus	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Dallas	8:00 PM
Nashville	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Colorado	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Philadelphia	San Jose	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Calgary	9:00 PM
Utah	Edmonton	9:00 PM
JANUARY		
Wednesday, Jan. 1		
New Jersey	Los Angeles	6:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 2		
Carolina	Florida	7:00 PM
Boston	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Washington	7:00 PM
Detroit	Columbus	7:00 PM
Toronto	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Ottawa	Dallas	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Colorado	9:00 PM
Utah	Calgary	9:00 PM
Philadelphia	Vegas	10:00 PM
Vancouver	Seattle	10:00 PM
Tampa Bay	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 3		
Pittsburgh	Florida	7:00 PM
Montreal	Chicago	8:00 PM
Ottawa	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Nashville	Vancouver	9:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 4		
NY Rangers	Washington	12:00 PM
Detroit	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
New Jersey	San Jose	4:00 PM
Boston	Toronto	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Carolina	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Columbus	7:00 PM
Montreal	Colorado	7:00 PM
Nashville	Calgary	7:00 PM
Utah	Dallas	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Buffalo	Vegas	10:00 PM
Edmonton	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 5		
NY Rangers	Chicago	3:00 PM
NY Islanders	Boston	6:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Carolina	6:00 PM
Philadelphia	Toronto	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 6		
Washington	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Montreal	7:30 PM
Florida	Colorado	9:00 PM
New Jersey	Seattle	10:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 7		
Edmonton	Boston	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Detroit	7:00 PM
Dallas	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Toronto	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Columbus	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Nashville	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Calgary	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Vegas	San Jose	10:30 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 8		
Vancouver	Washington	7:30 PM
Colorado	Chicago	7:30 PM
Florida	Utah	10:00 PM
Calgary	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 9		
Buffalo	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Boston	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Dallas	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Toronto	Carolina	7:00 PM
Seattle	Columbus	7:00 PM
Anaheim	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Colorado	Minnesota	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Vegas	10:00 PM
Friday, Jan. 10		
Chicago	Detroit	7:00 PM
Montreal	Washington	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Carolina	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
San Jose	Utah	9:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 11		
Boston	Florida	1:00 PM
Seattle	Buffalo	4:00 PM
Ottawa	Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Vancouver	Toronto	7:00 PM
Dallas	Montreal	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Chicago	7:00 PM
Columbus	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Colorado	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Washington	Nashville	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Utah	9:00 PM
Los Angeles	Calgary	10:00 PM
NY Rangers	Vegas	10:00 PM
Minnesota	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 12		
Seattle	Detroit	3:00 PM
Dallas	Ottawa	5:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Pittsburgh	5:00 PM
Anaheim	Carolina	5:00 PM
Minnesota	Vegas	8:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 13		
Florida	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Calgary	Chicago	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Edmonton	9:30 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 14		
Tampa Bay	Boston	7:00 PM
Dallas	Toronto	7:00 PM
San Jose	Detroit	7:00 PM
Florida	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Seattle	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Washington	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Columbus	7:00 PM
Ottawa	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Calgary	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Vegas	Nashville	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Colorado	9:00 PM
Montreal	Utah	9:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 15		
Carolina	Buffalo	6:00 PM
Edmonton	Minnesota	8:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 16		
New Jersey	Toronto	7:00 PM
Washington	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Detroit	Florida	7:00 PM
San Jose	Columbus	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Calgary	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Chicago	Nashville	8:00 PM
Montreal	Dallas	8:00 PM
Seattle	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Utah	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Colorado	9:30 PM
Los Angeles	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Friday, Jan. 17		
Pittsburgh	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Vegas	Carolina	7:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 18		
Philadelphia	New Jersey	12:30 PM
Boston	Ottawa	3:00 PM
Dallas	Colorado	4:00 PM
Anaheim	Florida	6:00 PM
Toronto	Montreal	7:00 PM
Detroit	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Columbus	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Washington	7:00 PM
Calgary	Winnipeg	7:00 PM

All times Eastern (ET)

SCHEDULE | 2024-25

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
San Jose	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Vegas	Chicago	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Nashville	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Utah	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Los Angeles	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 19		
Ottawa	New Jersey	1:00 PM
NY Rangers	Montreal	7:00 PM
Detroit	Dallas	8:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 20		
San Jose	Boston	1:00 PM
Minnesota	Colorado	3:00 PM
Buffalo	Seattle	4:00 PM
St. Louis	Vegas	6:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Toronto	7:30 PM
Columbus	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Carolina	Chicago	8:30 PM
Winnipeg	Utah	9:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 21		
Tampa Bay	Montreal	7:00 PM
Ottawa	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Detroit	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
San Jose	Nashville	8:00 PM
Carolina	Dallas	8:00 PM
Washington	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Buffalo	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Florida	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 22		
Columbus	Toronto	7:30 PM
Boston	New Jersey	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Colorado	9:30 PM
Florida	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 23		
Ottawa	Boston	7:00 PM
Montreal	Detroit	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Columbus	Carolina	7:00 PM
Vegas	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Utah	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Buffalo	Calgary	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Washington	Seattle	10:00 PM
Nashville	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 24		
Philadelphia	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Chicago	7:30 PM
Vegas	Dallas	8:00 PM
Utah	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 25		
Colorado	Boston	1:00 PM
Buffalo	Edmonton	4:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Seattle	4:00 PM
New Jersey	Montreal	7:00 PM
Toronto	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Detroit	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Columbus	7:00 PM
Dallas	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Calgary	Minnesota	7:00 PM
Carolina	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Washington	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Nashville	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Florida	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Jan. 26		
Colorado	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Utah	Ottawa	5:00 PM
Calgary	Winnipeg	6:00 PM
Minnesota	Chicago	7:00 PM
Florida	Vegas	8:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 27		
Los Angeles	Detroit	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Vancouver	St. Louis	7:30 PM
Seattle	Edmonton	9:30 PM
Pittsburgh	San Jose	10:30 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 28		
Boston	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Montreal	7:00 PM
Chicago	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Carolina	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Colorado	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Washington	Calgary	9:00 PM
Dallas	Vegas	10:00 PM
Anaheim	Seattle	10:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 29		
Minnesota	Toronto	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Florida	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Nashville	9:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Utah	9:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 30		
Winnipeg	Boston	7:00 PM
Minnesota	Montreal	7:00 PM
Washington	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Chicago	Carolina	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Calgary	9:00 PM
Detroit	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Columbus	Vegas	10:00 PM
San Jose	Seattle	10:00 PM
Friday, Jan. 31		
Nashville	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Dallas	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Colorado	9:00 PM
Columbus	Utah	9:00 PM
FEBRUARY		
Saturday, Feb. 1		
Chicago	Florida	1:00 PM
NY Rangers	Boston	3:30 PM
Minnesota	Ottawa	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Nashville	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Washington	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Carolina	7:00 PM
Toronto	Edmonton	7:00 PM
Detroit	Calgary	10:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 2		
New Jersey	Buffalo	1:00 PM
Philadelphia	Colorado	3:00 PM
Montreal	Anaheim	4:00 PM
NY Islanders	Florida	6:00 PM
Vegas	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Columbus	Dallas	6:00 PM
St. Louis	Utah	7:00 PM
Detroit	Vancouver	8:00 PM
Calgary	Seattle	9:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 3		
Ottawa	Nashville	7:30 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 4		
Minnesota	Boston	7:00 PM
Columbus	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Florida	Washington	7:00 PM
Vegas	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Edmonton	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Carolina	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Toronto	Calgary	9:00 PM
Philadelphia	Utah	9:00 PM
Colorado	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Dallas	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Detroit	Seattle	10:00 PM
Montreal	San Jose	10:30 PM
Monday, Feb. 5		
Boston	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Chicago	9:30 PM
Montreal	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thursday, Feb. 6		
Ottawa	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Vegas	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Washington	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Utah	Columbus	7:00 PM
Florida	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Carolina	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Colorado	Calgary	9:00 PM
Toronto	Seattle	10:00 PM
Vancouver	San Jose	10:30 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 7		
Pittsburgh	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Nashville	Chicago	8:30 PM
Colorado	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Dallas	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Saturday, Feb. 8		
New Jersey	Montreal	1:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Detroit	1:00 PM
Utah	Carolina	1:00 PM
Vegas	Boston	3:30 PM
Ottawa	Florida	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Columbus	7:00 PM
Chicago	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Toronto	Vancouver	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Nashville	8:00 PM
NY Islanders	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Seattle	Calgary	10:00 PM
Anaheim	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Dallas	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 9		
Utah	Washington	12:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Montreal	1:00 PM
Feb. 12-20		
NHL 4 Nations Face-Off		
Thursday, Feb. 22		
Edmonton	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Washington	Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Minnesota	Detroit	3:30 PM
NY Rangers	Buffalo	5:30 PM
Seattle	Florida	6:00 PM
Dallas	New Jersey	6:00 PM
Colorado	Nashville	6:00 PM
Anaheim	Boston	7:00 PM
Carolina	Toronto	7:00 PM
Montreal	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Chicago	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Utah	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Vancouver	Vegas	10:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 23		
Edmonton	Washington	1:00 PM
NY Rangers	Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Anaheim	Detroit	6:00 PM
Seattle	Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Colorado	St. Louis	6:00 PM
New Jersey	Nashville	6:00 PM
Toronto	Chicago	7:00 PM
Dallas	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
San Jose	Calgary	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Utah	8:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 24		
San Jose	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Vegas	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 25		
Toronto	Boston	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Carolina	Montreal	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Calgary	Washington	7:00 PM
Dallas	Columbus	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Seattle	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Florida	Nashville	8:00 PM
Detroit	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Chicago	Utah	9:00 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 26		
Winnipeg	Ottawa	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Colorado	9:30 PM
Vancouver	Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thursday, Feb. 27		
NY Islanders	Boston	7:00 PM
San Jose	Montreal	7:00 PM
Columbus	Detroit	7:00 PM
Calgary	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Florida	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Washington	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Carolina	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Nashville	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Utah	9:00 PM
Chicago	Vegas	10:00 PM
Vancouver	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Friday, Feb. 28		
Toronto	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	Dallas	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Colorado	9:00 PM
MARCH		
Saturday, March 1		
Nashville	NY Islanders	12:30 PM
Tampa Bay	Washington	12:30 PM
Detroit	Columbus	TBD
Calgary	Florida	3:00 PM
Boston	Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Montreal	Buffalo	7:00 PM
San Jose	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Edmonton	Carolina	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Los Angeles	St. Louis	8:00 PM
New Jersey	Utah	9:00 PM
Chicago	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Vancouver	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, March 2		
Toronto	Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Boston	Minnesota	3:30 PM
Calgary	Carolina	5:00 PM
St. Louis	Dallas	6:00 PM
Nashville	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Vegas	8:00 PM
Monday, March 3		
Ottawa	Washington	6:30 PM
Buffalo	Montreal	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Florida	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
San Jose	Toronto	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Chicago	8:30 PM
Tuesday, March 4		
Nashville	Boston	7:00 PM
San Jose	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Carolina	Detroit	7:00 PM
Columbus	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Calgary	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
New Jersey	Dallas	8:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Colorado	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Minnesota	Seattle	10:00 PM
Wednesday, March 5		
Washington	NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Ottawa	Chicago	7:30 PM
Toronto	Vegas	10:00 PM
Anaheim	Vancouver	10:30 PM
St. Louis	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thursday, March 6		
Utah	Detroit	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Columbus	Florida	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Boston	Carolina	7:00 PM
Seattle	Nashville	8:00 PM
Calgary	Dallas	8:00 PM
Montreal	Edmonton	9:00 PM
San Jose	Colorado	9:30 PM
Friday, March 7		
Winnipeg	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Detroit	Washington	7:00 PM
Utah	Chicago	8:30 PM
Minnesota	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Vegas	10:00 PM
St. Louis	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, March 8		
NY Rangers	Ottawa	12:30 PM
Seattle	Philadelphia	12:30 PM
Boston	Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Buffalo	Florida	6:00 PM
Toronto	Colorado	7:00 PM
Montreal	Calgary	7:00 PM
Chicago	Nashville	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Dallas	Edmonton	10:00 PM
NY Islanders	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, March 9		
New Jersey	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Seattle	Washington	3:30 PM
Pittsburgh	Minnesota	3:30 PM
Winnipeg	Carolina	5:00 PM
Columbus	NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Los Angeles	Vegas	8:00 PM
Dallas	Vancouver	9:00 PM
NY Islanders	Anaheim	9:00 PM
Monday, March 10		
Edmonton	Buffalo	6:30 PM
Detroit	Ottawa	7:30 PM
Chicago	Colorado	9:00 PM
Toronto	Utah	10:00 PM
Tuesday, March 11		
Florida	Boston	7:00 PM
Columbus	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Vegas	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Carolina	7:00 PM
Colorado	Minnesota	8:00 PM
NY Rangers	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Montreal	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Washington	Anaheim	10:00 PM
NY Islanders	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Nashville	San Jose	10:30 PM
Wednesday, March 12		
Buffalo	Detroit	7:30 PM
Vancouver	Calgary	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Utah	9:00 PM
Montreal	Seattle	10:30 PM
Thursday, March 13		
Florida	Toronto	7:00 PM
Boston	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Edmonton	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Vegas	Columbus	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Washington	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Chicago	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, March 14		
Detroit	Carolina	7:00 PM
Edmonton	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Dallas	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Colorado	Calgary	9:00 PM
Nashville	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Utah	Seattle	10:00 PM
Saturday, March 15		
Vegas	Buffalo	12:30 PM
New Jersey	Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Washington	San Jose	5:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Boston	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Toronto	7:00 PM
Florida	Montreal	7:00 PM
Carolina	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Columbus	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Nashville	Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Chicago	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sunday, March 16		
Vegas	Detroit	1:00 PM
Dallas	Colorado	3:30 PM
Anaheim	St. Louis	6:00 PM
Edmonton	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Florida	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Utah	Vancouver	8:00 PM
Winnipeg	Seattle	9:00 PM
Monday, March 17		
Buffalo	Boston	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Columbus	7:00 PM
Calgary	Toronto	7:30 PM
Los Angeles	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tuesday, March 18		
Ottawa	Montreal	7:00 PM
Calgary	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Detroit	Washington	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Nashville	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Dallas	8:00 PM
Seattle	Chicago	8:30 PM
Utah	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Winnipeg	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wednesday, March 19		
Colorado	Toronto	7:00 PM
Seattle	Minnesota	9:30 PM
Thursday, March 20		
Colorado	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Calgary	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Toronto	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Washington	7:00 PM

*All times Eastern (ET)

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Florida	Columbus	7:00 PM
Montreal	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Vancouver	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Nashville	8:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Dallas	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Chicago	8:30 PM
Winnipeg	Edmonton	9:00 PM
Buffalo	Utah	9:00 PM
Boston	Vegas	10:00 PM
Carolina	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, March 21		
Columbus	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 22		
Vancouver	NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Philadelphia	Dallas	2:00 PM
Buffalo	Minnesota	2:00 PM
Chicago	St. Louis	3:00 PM
Calgary	NY Islanders	4:00 PM
Carolina	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Florida	Washington	5:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Utah	5:00 PM
Colorado	Montreal	7:00 PM
Ottawa	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Toronto	Nashville	7:00 PM
Detroit	Vegas	8:00 PM
Seattle	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Boston	San Jose	10:30 PM
Sunday, March 23		
Philadelphia	Chicago	3:00 PM
Buffalo	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Florida	6:00 PM
Nashville	St. Louis	6:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Vegas	8:00 PM
Carolina	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Boston	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Monday, March 24		
Vancouver	New Jersey	7:30 PM
Columbus	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Minnesota	Dallas	8:00 PM
Detroit	Utah	9:00 PM
Tuesday, March 25		
Ottawa	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Toronto	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Nashville	Carolina	7:00 PM
Montreal	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Vegas	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Washington	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Detroit	Colorado	9:00 PM
Seattle	Calgary	9:00 PM
NY Rangers	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wednesday, March 26		
Vancouver	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
New Jersey	Chicago	7:30 PM
Dallas	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Boston	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thursday, March 27		
Pittsburgh	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Detroit	7:00 PM
Utah	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Montreal	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Nashville	8:00 PM
Washington	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Colorado	9:00 PM
Dallas	Calgary	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Seattle	10:00 PM
Toronto	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, March 28		
Utah	Florida	7:00 PM
Montreal	Carolina	7:00 PM
Vancouver	Columbus	7:00 PM
New Jersey	Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Vegas	Chicago	8:30 PM
NY Rangers	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Saturday, March 29		
Buffalo	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
NY Islanders	Tampa Bay	2:00 PM
St. Louis	Colorado	4:30 PM
New Jersey	Minnesota	6:00 PM
Vegas	Nashville	6:30 PM
Columbus	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Toronto	Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Boston	Detroit	8:00 PM
Calgary	Edmonton	10:00 PM
NY Rangers	San Jose	10:30 PM
Dallas	Seattle	10:30 PM
Sunday, March 30		
Montreal	Florida	1:00 PM
Buffalo	Washington	3:00 PM
Vancouver	Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Utah	Chicago	4:00 PM
Ottawa	Pittsburgh	5:00 PM
NY Islanders	Carolina	5:00 PM
Toronto	Anaheim	8:00 PM
San Jose	Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Monday, March 31		
Minnesota	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Nashville	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Calgary	Colorado	8:30 PM
Dallas	Seattle	10:00 PM

APRIL

Tuesday, April 1		
Washington	Boston	7:00 PM
Florida	Montreal	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Nashville	Columbus	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Detroit	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Calgary	Utah	9:00 PM
Edmonton	Vegas	10:00 PM
San Jose	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Winnipeg	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wednesday, April 2		
Minnesota	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Washington	Carolina	7:00 PM
Florida	Toronto	7:30 PM
Colorado	Chicago	9:30 PM
Seattle	Vancouver	10:30 PM
Thursday, April 3		
Boston	Montreal	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Colorado	Columbus	7:30 PM
Pittsburgh	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Nashville	Dallas	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Utah	9:00 PM
Anaheim	Calgary	9:30 PM
Winnipeg	Vegas	10:00 PM
Edmonton	San Jose	10:30 PM
Friday, April 4		
Carolina	Detroit	7:00 PM
Chicago	Washington	7:00 PM
Minnesota	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Saturday, April 5		
NY Rangers	New Jersey	1:00 PM
Florida	Ottawa	2:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Dallas	3:30 PM
Anaheim	Vancouver	4:00 PM
Edmonton	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Carolina	Boston	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Columbus	Toronto	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	Montreal	7:00 PM
Colorado	St. Louis	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Utah	7:00 PM
Vegas	Calgary	10:00 PM
Seattle	San Jose	10:00 PM
Sunday, April 6		
Washington	NY Islanders	12:30 PM
Dallas	Minnesota	3:00 PM
Columbus	Ottawa	5:00 PM
Florida	Detroit	5:30 PM
Boston	Buffalo	6:00 PM
Pittsburgh	Chicago	6:00 PM
Montreal	Nashville	7:00 PM
Vegas	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Monday, April 7		
Tampa Bay	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
St. Louis	Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Edmonton	Anaheim	10:30 PM
Seattle	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Calgary	San Jose	10:30 PM
Tuesday, April 8		
Carolina	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Detroit	Montreal	7:00 PM
Toronto	Florida	7:00 PM
Boston	New Jersey	7:00 PM
Ottawa	Columbus	7:00 PM
Chicago	Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
NY Islanders	Nashville	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Dallas	8:00 PM
Seattle	Utah	9:00 PM
Vegas	Colorado	10:00 PM
Wednesday, April 9		
Toronto	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Philadelphia	NY Rangers	7:30 PM
San Jose	Minnesota	8:00 PM
St. Louis	Edmonton	10:00 PM
Calgary	Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thursday, April 10		
Chicago	Boston	7:00 PM
Detroit	Florida	7:00 PM
Carolina	Washington	7:00 PM
Buffalo	Columbus	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Winnipeg	Dallas	8:00 PM
Vancouver	Colorado	9:00 PM
Nashville	Utah	9:00 PM
Seattle	Vegas	10:00 PM
Anaheim	Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Friday, April 11		
Montreal	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Detroit	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Pittsburgh	New Jersey	7:00 PM
San Jose	Edmonton	9:30 PM
Minnesota	Calgary	10:00 PM
Saturday, April 12		
NY Islanders	Philadelphia	1:00 PM
NY Rangers	Carolina	3:30 PM
Colorado	Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Buffalo	Florida	6:00 PM
Montreal	Toronto	7:00 PM
Washington	Columbus	7:00 PM
Winnipeg	Chicago	7:00 PM
Utah	Dallas	8:00 PM
Minnesota	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Nashville	Vegas	10:00 PM
St. Louis	Seattle	10:00 PM
Sunday, April 13		
Philadelphia	Ottawa	1:00 PM
NY Islanders	New Jersey	1:00 PM
Boston	Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Toronto	Carolina	5:00 PM
Buffalo	Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Columbus	Washington	6:00 PM
Edmonton	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
San Jose	Calgary	8:00 PM
Colorado	Anaheim	8:00 PM
Monday, April 14		
Chicago	Montreal	7:00 PM
Dallas	Detroit	7:00 PM
NY Rangers	Florida	7:00 PM
Utah	Nashville	8:00 PM
Los Angeles	Edmonton	10:00 PM
San Jose	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tuesday, April 15		
New Jersey	Boston	7:00 PM
Toronto	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Chicago	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Florida	Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Columbus	Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Washington	NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Utah	St. Louis	8:00 PM
Anaheim	Minnesota	8:00 PM
Vegas	Calgary	9:00 PM
Los Angeles	Seattle	10:30 PM
Wednesday, April 16		
Carolina	Montreal	7:00 PM
Anaheim	Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Detroit	New Jersey	7:30 PM
Dallas	Nashville	8:00 PM
Vegas	Vancouver	10:00 PM
Edmonton	San Jose	10:30 PM
Thursday, April 17		
Philadelphia	Buffalo	7:00 PM
Detroit	Toronto	7:00 PM
Carolina	Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tampa Bay	NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Washington	Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
NY Islanders	Columbus	7:00 PM

*All times Eastern (ET)

UNRESTRICTED FREE AGENTS

There were still many players who had yet to sign NHL contracts by our press time in early August. Here are the most prominent ones

GOALIES	2023-24	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Antti Raanta	Carolina	24	12	7	2	2.99	.872
Kevin Lankinen	Nashville	24	11	6	0	2.82	.908
Martin Jones	Toronto	22	11	8	1	2.87	.902
Magnus Hellberg	WBS/Charlotte (AHL)	27	14	10	2	2.75	.904
Ivan Prosvetov	Colorado (AHL)	21	11	7	2	2.33	.921
Malcolm Subban	Springfield/Cleve. (AHL)	35	11	17	4	3.12	.901

DEFENSEMEN	2023-24	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Justin Schultz	Seattle	70	7	19	26	22
Kevin Shattenkirk	Boston	61	6	18	24	18
Calen Addison	Minnesota/San Jose	72	1	16	17	72
Tyson Barrie	Nashville	41	1	14	15	16
Tony DeAngelo	Carolina	31	3	8	11	24
Alex Goligoski	Minnesota	36	0	10	10	18
Gustav Lindstrom	Montreal/Anaheim	46	3	7	10	24
Jarred Tinordi	Chicago	52	0	9	9	64
Mark Giordano	Toronto	46	3	6	9	49
Marco Scandella	St. Louis	65	2	6	8	15
Travis Dermott	Arizona	50	2	5	7	26
Marc Staal	Philadelphia	35	1	4	5	14
Robert Bortuzzo	St. Louis/NY Islanders	27	0	0	0	27

CENTERS	2023-24	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Tyler Johnson	Chicago	67	17	14	31	26
Nick Cousins	Florida	69	7	8	15	64
Ryan Carpenter	San Jose	62	5	7	12	6
Chris Tierney	New Jersey	52	4	8	12	21
Sam Gagner	Edmonton	28	5	5	10	10
Nick Bonino	NY Rangers	45	1	4	5	8
Tyler Pitlick	NY Rangers	34	1	3	4	4
Steven Lorentz	Florida	38	1	2	3	10
Colin White	Pittsburgh/Montreal	28	0	0	0	4
Seth Griffith	Bakersfield (AHL)	68	15	48	63	32
Joseph Blandisi	Toronto (AHL)	70	25	34	59	110
Rem Pitlick	WBS/Rockford (AHL)	59	22	35	57	26

LEFT WINGERS	2023-24	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
James van Riemsdyk	Boston	71	11	27	38	20
Max Pacioretty	Washington	47	4	19	23	25
Mike Hoffman	San Jose	66	10	13	23	20
Dominik Kubalik	Ottawa	74	11	4	15	19
Alex Nylander	Pittsburgh/Columbus	28	11	4	15	6
Alexander Barabanov	San Jose	46	4	9	13	12
Tanner Pearson	Montreal	54	5	8	13	21
Boris Katchouk	Chicago/Ottawa	59	7	6	13	12
Sammy Blais	St. Louis	53	1	6	7	31
P-E Bellemare	Seattle	40	4	3	7	6
Austin Watson	Tampa Bay	33	2	2	4	93
Jakub Vrana	Springfield (AHL)	42	16	20	36	54
Taro Hirose	Grand Rapids (AHL)	54	9	27	36	8

RIGHT WINGERS	2023-24	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Filip Zadina	San Jose	72	13	10	23	18
Kyle Okposo	Buffalo/Florida	67	12	10	22	34
Blake Wheeler	NY Rangers	54	9	12	21	23
Cal Clutterbuck	NY Islanders	82	7	12	19	32
Kailer Yamamoto	Seattle	59	8	8	16	18
Kevin Labanc	San Jose	46	2	7	9	16
Matthew Phillips	Washington/Pittsburgh	31	1	4	5	0
Rocco Grimaldi	Chicago (AHL)	72	36	37	73	38
Logan Shaw	Toronto (AHL)	68	30	28	58	28
Denis Gurianov	Milwaukee (AHL)	27	12	18	30	8

LAST WORD
WITH RYAN KENNEDY
@THNRYANKENNEDY

NHL

BIG 'D' IS A BIG DEAL

THE NHL IS FASTER AND MORE SKILLED THAN EVER. ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED IS THE IMPORTANCE OF A BRUISING BLUELINE IN THE PLAYOFFS

WE ALL KNOW THE NHL is a copycat league, and it was clear this summer that teams were interested in copying the Cats after the Florida Panthers held off the Edmonton Oilers in seven games to claim the Stanley Cup.

Florida captured the title with a big, strong defense corps – one year after the Vegas Golden Knights did the exact same thing. Heck, the Oilers themselves had a burly bunch on the back end, bringing a consistent theme to the past four finalists (Florida twice). The smallest member of Florida's 'D' was Gustav Forsling, who comes in at six-foot and 195 pounds. And he had 6-foot-4, 215-pound Aaron Ekblad as a partner. Not coincidentally, a number of playoff games against the Rangers and Oilers ended with 6-foot-5, 205-pound Panthers rearguard Niko Mikkola – as well as Ekblad – pinning the puck against the boards and daring opponents to wrench it out as the clock ticked down. Spoiler alert: they always failed.

But on the other end of the ice, the Oilers had some Alberta-quality beef of their own. Edmonton's back end was even bigger than Florida's crew, a veritable forest thanks to Mattias Ekholm, Darnell Nurse, Cody Ceci and others. Even Edmonton's premier point-producer from the blueline, Evan Bouchard, is 6-foot-3 and 190 pounds.

So, perhaps it's no surprise that the summer's hottest commodities were blueliners with size. Toronto got the dominoes toppling by trading for pending UFA Chris Tanev (6-2, 195), then promptly signing the shot-blocking shutdown king to a six-year deal. The Leafs continued their blueline makeover by nabbing one of Florida's erstwhile defenders, Oliver Ekman-Larsson (6-2, 190).

With Tanev off the board, other teams went in search of their own new stalwarts. New Jersey locked up another excellent defensive defenseman in Brett Pesce (6-3, 205), while Boston grabbed one of the biggest blueliners around in Nikita Zadorov (6-6, 250). In Utah, GM Bill Armstrong's first official blockbuster under new ownership was the trade that brought Mikhail Sergachev (6-3, 210) over from Tampa.

Which brings us to a bit of a paradox. Clearly, teams are valuing size on the back end – among other traits, obviously – in the pursuit of a championship. But when you think of elite defensemen in today's NHL, the mind wanders to the elite puck-movers and power-play QBs. Think about it: who just won the Norris Trophy? Vancouver's Quinn Hughes, all 5-foot-10 and 180 pounds of him. New York's Adam Fox, another recent Norris winner, isn't big, either. Cale Makar and Erik Karlsson are mid-sized, and Makar was the Conn Smythe Trophy winner when he helped the Avalanche to the Cup in 2022. Out of that elite grouping of four, only Makar has ever made it to the final, though, of course, that could change as soon as this season.

So, what does this tell us about the state of the NHL? I suppose the cheeky answer is, "Get yourself a Cale Makar who can achieve individual and team success," but that's not very practical, is it?

What it does bring into clear view is that the post-season and the regular season are different beasts, and the results reflect that. Makar's 2022 Avalanche may be the exception that proves the rule, but even that Colorado blueline wasn't tiny. Makar's partner, Devon Toews, is 6-foot-1 and 190 pounds – and Bowen Byram (now with Buffalo) is the same. Samuel Girard missed most of that playoff run due to injury, but he was part of the game plan even though he's only 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds. For bulk, the Avs relied on Josh Manson and Erik Johnson. Having a steamrolling group of forwards led by Nathan MacKinnon surely helped, too.

But if what we've seen in the past two Cup finals is any indication, teams tend to have bigger and meaner bluelines the deeper you get into the playoffs. It's a punishing time with so much on the line, and keeping the enemy on the perimeter is often the key to success. Having an array of bouncers near the crease tends to help as well. When Florida made the 2023 final, they did so by keeping their Eastern Conference foes to the outside, shutting down potent offenses from Toronto and Carolina along the way. When it came to the final, the Golden Knights were simply too heavy and fast up front to stop, especially given how banged up the Panthers were. One year later, a healthy Florida blueline helped the team march to glory. Who will follow them this season?

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